Jackson Co School Index for book
Else Martin
Feb 2011

**Watts, Clara**, *aka* **Willie Clara**, 1893-94, 1896
*Orange Grove School*
*T7 R5, Jackson Co Enum*
Par/guar: J. C. Watts, aka Joe, Josiah
Age 6 wf, Orange Grove Enum, Jun 1893
Age 6 wf, attended Orange G., May-Sept 1893
Age 7 wf, Orange Grove Enum, Jun 1894
Age 9 wf, Jackson Co Enum, Jun 1896

**Watts, J. C.**, *aka* **Josiah Carter Watts**, Jun 1896
*T7 R5 Jackson Co Enum*
White, par/guar of:
Johnnie Watts, 12 wm
Clara Watts, 9 wf
Sallie Watts, 7 wf
Joseph Watts, 5 wm

**Watts, Jessie**, 1892-93
*Scranton Public School*
Age 9 wm, attended Scranton, Nov 92-Mar 93

**Watts, John**, *aka* **Johnnie**, 1893-94, 1896
*Orange Grove School*
*T7 R5, Jackson Co Enum*
Par/guar: J. C. Watts, aka Joe, Josiah
Age 9 wm, Orange Grove Enum, Jun 1893
Age 9 wm, attended Orange G., May-Sept 1893
Age 10 wm, Orange Grove Enum, Jun 1894
Age 10 wm, attended summer 1894
Perfect Attendance, 80 days!
Age 12 wm Jackson Co Enum, Jun 1896

**Watts, Joseph**, 1896
*T7 R5, Jackson Co Enum*
Par/guar: J. C. Watts, aka Joe, Josiah
Age 5 wm, Jackson Co Enum, Jun 1896

**Watts, Lois**, 1892-94
*Scranton Public School*
Age 15 wf, attended Scranton Nov 92-Feb 93
Age 16 wf, attended Scranton Nov 93-Feb 94

**Watts, Rosa**, 1892-94
*Scranton Public School*
Age 12 wf, attended Scranton Nov 92-Feb 93
Age 13 wf, attended Scranton Nov 93-Feb 94

**Watts, Sallie**, 1893-94, 1896
*Orange Grove School*
*T7 R5, Jackson Co Enum*
Par/guar: J. C. Watts, aka Joe, Josiah
Age 5 wf, Orange Grove Enum, Jun 1894
Age 7 wf, Jackson Co Enum, Jun 1896

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Archie C. Watts

Born: November 26, 1853 Place: Alabama Event 3:
Married: ABOUT 1897 Place: Event 4:
Died: ABOUT 1930 Place: Bayou La Batre, Mobile Co AL Event 5:
Event 1: ABOUT 1930 Place: Odd Fellows Cem, Mobile Co AL Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: John Robert Watts
Mother: "Betsy" Elizabeth Thornton Asbury
Other Spouses:

Wife: Carrie I. Watts

Born: August 10, 1874 Place: Event 3:
Died: November 21, 1956 Place: Bayou La Batre, Mobile Co AL Event 4:
Event 1: November 22, 1956 Place: Odd Fellows Cem, Mobile Co AL Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex Children List each child (living or dead)
M/F in order of birth

1. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
—

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: James Culpepper

Born: September 24, 1824 Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Alabama Event 4:
Died: June 10, 1890 Place: Sumter Co, Alabama Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Wife: Mary A. J. Watts

Born: April 25, 1839 Place: Alabana Event 3:
Died: December 7, 1928 Place: Sumter Co, Alabama Event 4:
Event 1: August 1854 Place: Baptized Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father: John Robert Watts
Mother: "Betsy" Elizabeth Thornton Asbury
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: John Thomas Watts

Born: August 22, 1841 Place: Alabama Event 3:
Married: Place: Never Married Event 4:
Died: October 12, 1864 Place: Battle Resona, GA, CSA Event 5:
Event 1: September 1857 Place: Baptized Event 6:
Event 2: 1863 Place: 1st Lt AL 36th Co E Capt Gelisppa, CSA
Father: John Robert Watts
Mother: "Betsy" Elizabeth Thornton Asbury
Other Spouses:

Wife:

Born: Place: Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Richard James Watts

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Born: | March 30, 1844 | Place: | Alabama | Event 3: | |
| Married: | | Place: | Never Married | Event 4: | |
| Died: | May 23, 1862 | Place: | Battle, Corinth, MS, CSA | Event 5: | |
| Event 1: | 1862 | Place: | AL 36th Reg Co C, Capt. C. P. Porter CSA | Event 6: | |
| Event 2: | | Place: | | | |

Father: John Robert Watts
Mother: "Betsy" Elizabeth Thornton Asbury
Other Spouses:

Wife:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Born: | Place: | Event 3: | |
| Died: | Place: | Event 4: | |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 5: | |
| Event 2: | Place: | | |

Father:
Mother:

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Tandy Key Watts

Born: July 17, 1846 Place: Alabama Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: December 12, 1885 Place: Meridian, Lauderdale Co MS Event 5:
Event 1: 1860 Place: Baptized in October Event 6:
Event 2: 1863 Place: CSA, Calvaryman
Father: John Robert Watts
Mother: "Betsy" Elizabeth Thornton Asbury
Other Spouses:

Wife:

Born: Place: Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex Children List each child (living or dead)
M/F in order of birth

1. Name: Spouse:
—— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
——

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Vincent Thornton Watts

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: October 10, 1848 | Place: Alabama | Event 3: |
| Married: | Place: Never Married | Event 4: |
| Died: March 25, 1865 | Place: Bentonville, NC Battle, CSA | Event 5: |
| Event 1: 1864 | Place: AL 41st Reg, Capt Brunson, CSA | Event 6: |
| Event 2: March 18, 1865 | Place: Wounded Bentonville, NC, CSA | |

Father: John Robert Watts
Mother: "Betsy" Elizabeth Thornton Asbury
Other Spouses:

Wife:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: | Place: | Event 3: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 4: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |

Father:

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: | Place: | Event 3: |
| Married: | Place: Never Married | Event 4: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 6: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: | | |
| Mother: | | |
| Other Spouses: | | |

Wife: Martha Elizabeth Watts

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: March 23, 1851 | Place: Alabama | Event 3: |
| Died: February 18, 1931 | Place: Cuba, Sumter Co, AL | Event 4: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: John Robert Watts | | |
| Mother: "Betsy" Elizabeth Thornton Asbury | | |
| Other Spouses: | | |

Jesse A. Watts

Democrat-Star Newspaper, Scranton, Miss., Jan 13, 1893

DEATH OF J. A. WATTS

Mr. J. A. WATTS, of Rosser, Ala., who came here some months ago on a visit to his daughter, Mrs. W. J. BRUNSON, in the hope of regaining his failing health, died last Sunday, the 7th inst., at 1 o'clock, p.m. having been confined to his bed some two months.

Mr. WATTS was and old and popular citizen of Sumter county, Ala., was Justice of the Peace, and land agent for the M & O railroad for many years, and at the same time a successful farmer. He was a candidate for Assessor of his county last spring, and although physically unable to convass the county, was only beaten by a few votes by another very popular candidate.

He leaves an interesting family, consisting of four girls and one boy, Mrs. BRUNSON being the eldest, all of whom were with him, and who are conforted by the reflection that their father, being sustained by a Christian's faith, passed from life unto death without fear and without a struggle. We tender them our sympathy in their hour of grief.

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Jesse A. Watts

Born: May 12, 1837 Place: Greene Co Georgia Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: January 7, 1893 Place: Scranton, Jackson Co MS Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: John Robert Watts
Mother: "Betsy" Elizabeth Thornton Asbury
Other Spouses:

Wife: Mary H. Culpepper

Born: Place: Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex Children List each child (living or dead)
M/F in order of birth

1. Name: Eunice Watts Spouse: W. J. Brunson
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Daughter Watts Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Daughter Watts Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Daughter Watts Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Husband: Jesse A. Watts | | | | Yr of Birth: 1837 |
| Wife: Mary H. Culpepper | | | | Yr of Birth: |
| Sex Children (continued) | | | | |
| 5. | Name: Son Watts | | Spouse: | |
| —— | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| M | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 6. | Name: | | Spouse: | |
| —— | | | | |

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: William H. Watts

Born: August 17, 1835 Place: Greene Co Georgia Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: July 14, 1918 Place: Sumter Co Alabama Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: John Robert Watts
Mother: "Betsy" Elizabeth Thornton Asbury
Other Spouses:

Wife: Kizzie/Clementine

Born: May 28, 1838 Place: Event 3:
Died: December 22, 1926 Place: Sumter Co Alabama Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Eva Watts Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Lucy Watts Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

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John Robert Watts

1850 Sumter Co Alabama Census, Woods District

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| #1290-1319 | JOHN R. WATTS | 39 | | Merchant | b. GA |
| | ELIZABETH WATTS | 33 | Wife | | b. GA |
| | WILLIAM WATTS | 15 | Son | | b. GA |
| | JESSE WATTS | 14 | Son | | b. GA |
| | MARY J. WATTS | 11 | Daughter | | b. AL |
| | JOHN S. WATTS | 9 | Son | | b. AL |
| | RICHARD WATTS | 7 | Son | | b. AL |
| | TANDY K. WATTS | 4 | Son | | b. AL |
| | VINCENT WATTS | 2 | Son | | b. AL |
| | DAVID GILLIS | 30 | | Merchant | b. NC |
| #1290-1320 | REUBEN P. VAIL | 35 | | Physician | b. NC |
| | SARAH VAIL | 24 | Wife | | b. AL |
| | FRANCES VAIL | 3 | Daughter | | b. AL |
| | JOHN VAIL | 1 | Son | | b. AL |

1860 Sumter Co, Alabama Census, Southern Dist, Sydenham Post Office
June 12, 1860

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| #208 | J. R. WATTS | 49 | | Merchant | b. GA |
| | E. T. WATTS | 35 | (45) Wife | | b. GA |
| | J. A. WATTS | 23 | Son | Overseer | b. GA |
| | J. T. WATTS | 19 | Son | Farm Laborer | b. AL |
| | R. T. WATTS | 15 | Son | Farm Laborer | b. AL |
| | T. K. WATTS | 13 | Son | | b. AL |
| | V. J. WATTS | 11 | Son | | b. AL |
| | M. E. WATTS | 9 | Daughter | | b. AL |
| | A. C. WATTS | 7 | Son | | b. AL |
| | R. P. WATTS | 5 | Son | | b. AL |
| | B.(BABY?) WATTS | 5/12 mo | Son (Josiah Carter Watts) | | b. AL |

Zion Baptist Church Cemetery, Sumter Co, Alabama

| | |
|---|---|
| JOHN R. WATTS | ELIZABETH ASBURY WATTS |
| Masonic Stone | August 9, 1815 |
| June 30, 1810 | April 29, 1905 |
| June 1, 1883 | |

Their oldest son, William and his wife:

| | |
|---|---|
| W. H. WATTS "Father" | M. H. C. WATTS |
| August 17, 1835 | May 28, 1838 |
| July 14, 1918 | December 22, 1926 |

Thomas Watts

Watts Genealogy by Dr. Lois Norman no date..

RICHARD WATTS, Sr. was said to have been born c. 1740.

We do not know WHO RICHARD'S PARENTS WERE but ...
it has been said by some of his descendents that his
FATHER WAS JOHN WATTS, who died in Lunenburg Co Virginia in 1756.

Evidence is fairly conclusive that he was
the BROTHER OF THOMAS WATTS of Lunenburg and Bedford Co Virginia
and Wilkes Co Georgia.

RICHARD WATTS, SR. married ELIZABETH TOWNSEND of Virginia or
in Virginia c. 1763. She was said to be the
DAUGHTER OF JOHN TOWNSEND of Virginia and the
GRANDDAUGHTER of JAMES TOWNSEND of England and Virginia.

RICHARD WATTS, SR. and ELIZABETH TOWNSEND lived in Amelia Co,
Virginia, Bedford Co, Virginia and Wilkes Co, Georgia.

RICHARD WATTS was said to be of WELSH DESCENT.

RICHARD WATTS migrated to Georgia about 1783,
the year of HIS HEADRIGHT GRANT in WILKES CO.

*RICHARD WATTS, SR. was on the Tithes of Lunenburg Co, Virginia
in 1751, but he did not pay a tithe.

THOMAS WATTS was on the list in 1750 and 1751 and paid one tithe.

In 1752 EDWARD WATTS paid 5 tithes himself and four others....
EDWARD WATTS, JR.; WILLIAM WATTS; GEORGE WATTS; JOHN WATTS.

In Nashville, Tenn. Library Archives Dept., I found a very small
book published by descendents of RICHARD WATTS. It was
practically the same as reported. It did give a little more
information on children. I take the liberty of adding it here.

BENJAMIN WATTS, born 05 Oct 1764, m. ELIZABETH KEY, daughter of
JOHN and AGNES WITT KEY. BENJAMIN moved to Washington Co.,
Illinois, December 3, 1840, reporting to have died in
Washington Co., Illinois.

SUSANNA WATTS, married ....EVANS?
RHODA WATTS, married ASA D. STARR
JOHN WATTS' daughter married De. LANCY ... DeLANCY?

*Ref: "The KEYS OF UPPER GEORGIA" by Marcus M. Key and
Loula McBride McDonald, Georgia Genealogical Quarterly,
Vol. 6, 1970."

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: William Hicks/Hix Watts — Yr of Birth: 1777

Wife: Patsey Roberts — Yr of Birth: 1783

Sex Children (continued)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | Name: Tandy Key Watts | | Spouse: Martha | | |
| — | Born: April 29, 1814 | Place: Greene Co Georgia | | Event 3: | |
| M | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: | |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: | |
| 6. | Name: Martha Jane Watts | | Spouse: | | |
| — | Born: January 23, 1820 | Place: | | Event 3: | |
| F | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: | |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: | |
| 7. | Name: Mary Susan Watts | | Spouse: | | |
| — | Born: March 17, 1822 | Place: Greene Co Georgia | | Event 3: | |
| F | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: | |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: | |
| 8. | Name: William Thomas Watts | | Spouse: Nancy Margaret Williams | | |
| — | Born: December 18, 1823 | Place: Greene Co Georgia | | Event 3: | |
| M | Married: September 16, 1845 | Place: | | Event 4: | |
| | Died: April 24, 1877 | Place: | | Event 5: | |
| 9. | Name: | | Spouse: | | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: | |
| | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: | |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: | |
| 10. | Name: | | Spouse: | | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: | |
| | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: | |

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Harrison Hix Watts

Born: December 9, 1804 Place: Greene Co Georgia Event 3:
Married: December 14, 1824 Place: Greene Co Georgia Event 4:
Died: April 16, 1872 Place: Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: William Hicks/Hix Watts
Mother: Patsey Roberts
Other Spouses: Jane Forrester

Wife: Mary Jane Daniel

Born: December 9, 1805 Place: Event 3:
Died: May 5, 1833 Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: William Hicks/Hix Watts

Born: November 28, 1777 Place: Virginia Event 3:
Married: February 19, 1804 Place: Wilkes Co Georgia Event 4:
Died: July 17, 1833 Place: Greene Co Georgia Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Fought in War of 1812 Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Richard Henry? Watts, Sr.?
Mother: Elizabeth Townsend
Other Spouses: Mary Roberson

Wife: Patsey Roberts

Born: November 1, 1783 Place: Georgia Event 3:
Died: May 26, 1828 Place: Greene Co Georgia Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Harrison Hix Watts 1st spouse: Mary Jane Daniel
— Born: December 9, 1804 Place: Greene Co Georgia Event 3:
M Married: December 14, 1824 Place: Greene Co Georgia Event 4:
Died: April 16, 1872 Place: Event 5:

2. Name: "Betsy" Elizabeth P. Watts Spouse: Jesse Brooks
— Born: September 17, 1806 Place: Greene Co Georgia Event 3:
F Married: March 15, 1823 Place: Georgia Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: "Sally" Sarah Watts Spouse: Daniel Ely
— Born: September 16, 1808 Place: Georgia Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2
4. Name: John Robert Watts Spouse: "Betsy" Elizabeth Thornton Asbury
— Born: June 30, 1810 Place: Greene Co Georgia Event 3:
M Married: October 3, 1838 Place: Greene Co Georgia Event 4:
Died: June 1, 1883 Place: York, Sumter Co Alabama Event 5:

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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Richard Henry? Watts, Sr.? Yr of Birth: 1740

Wife: Elizabeth Townsend Yr of Birth: 1745

Sex Children (continued)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | Name: Susanna Watts | | Spouse: | Thomas Stark | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | | Event 5: |
| 6. | Name: Nancy S. Watts | | Spouse: | | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | | Event 5: |
| 7. | Name: Elizabeth "Betsy" Watts | | Spouse: | | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | | Event 5: |
| 8. | Name: John Watts | | Spouse: | | |
| — | Born: ABOUT 1762 | Place: Bedford Co, Virginia | | | Event 3: |
| M | Married: | Place: | | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | | Event 5: |
| 9. | Name: Benjamin Watts | | Spouse: | Elizabeth Tandy Key | |
| — | Born: October 5, 1764 | Place: Cumberland Co Virginia | | | Event 3: |
| M | Married: November 17, 1784 | Place: Bedford Co, Virginia | | | Event 4: |
| | Died: March 7, 1840 | Place: Nashville, Washington Co IL | | | Event 5: |
| 10. | Name: Judith B. Watts | | Spouse: | Joseph Key | |
| — | Born: ABOUT 1766 | Place: Virginia | | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: January 29, 1784 | Place: Bedford Co Virginia | | | Event 4: |
| | Died: ABOUT 1829 | Place: Greene/Jasper? Co Georgia | | | Event 5: |
| 11. | Name: William Hicks/Hix Watts | | 1st spouse: | Patsey Roberts | |
| — | Born: November 28, 1777 | Place: Virginia | | | Event 3: |
| M | Married: February 19, 1804 | Place: Wilkes Co Georgia | | | Event 4: |
| | Died: July 17, 1833 | Place: Greene Co Georgia | | | Event 5: |
| 12. | Name: | | Spouse: | | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | | Event 3: |
| | Married: | Place: | | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | | Event 5: |

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Richard Henry? Watts, Sr.?

Born: ABOUT 1740 Place: Maryland or Virginia Event 3:
Married: ABOUT 1763 Place: Amelia Co, Virginia Event 4:
Died: December 20, 1796 Place: Virginia** Event 5:
Event 1: May 5, 1817 Place: **Most likely death date Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: John Watts
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Wife: Elizabeth Townsend

Born: ABOUT 1745 Place: Georgia Event 3:
Died: ABOUT 1845 Place: Greene Co Georgia Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father: John Townsend
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Richard Henry Watts, Jr. Spouse: Mary Irby
— Born: Place: Event 3:
M Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: 1817 Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Rhoda Watts Spouse: Asa D. Starr
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Orsons Watts Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
M Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Thomas Watts Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
M Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Reuben Vail Watts

Born: August 9, 1856 Place: Rosser, Sumter Co AL Event 3:
Married: October 6, 1889 Place: Lufkin, Angelina Co, Texas Event 4:
Died: Place: Lufkin, Angelina Co TX Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: John Robert Watts
Mother: "Betsy" Elizabeth Thornton Asbury
Other Spouses:

Wife: Beulah Duncan

Born: Place: Texas Event 3:
Died: Place: Lufkin, Angelina Co TX Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Wiley Duncan
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: John Duncan Watts Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
M Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Della Watts Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

Reuben Vail Watts

REUBEN VAIL WATTS, born 09 August 1856, Sumter Co AL

Sumter Co AL 1850 Census, Woods District

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| #1290-1319 | JOHN R. WATTS | age 39, Merchant | b. GA |
| | Elizabeth WATTS | age 33, Wife | b. GA |
| | William WATTS | age 15, Son | b. GA |
| | Jesse WATTS | age 14, Son | b. GA |
| | Mary J. WATTS | age 11, Daughter | b. AL |
| | John S. WATTS | age 9, Son | b. AL |
| | Richard WATTS | age 7, Son | b. AL |
| | Tandy K. WATTS | age 4, Son | b. AL |
| | Vincent WATTS | age 2, Son | b. AL |
| | David GILLIS | age 30, Merchant | b. NC |

Note of interest, most likely his namesake:
1850 Sumter Co Alabama Census - adjoining household to the John R. Watts family is:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| #1290-1320 | REUBEN P. VAIL | age 35, Physician | b. NC |
| | Sarah VAIL | age 24, wife | b. AL |
| | Frances VAIL | age 3, daughter | b. AL |
| | John VAIL | age 1, son | b. AL |

Texas and Texans
Page 2414, 2415, 2416, including photo of Sheriff Reuben V. Watts

HALF OF ARTICLE IS MISSING!

REUBEN V. WATTS
and has won his dist
actual achievement
law. His administrat
record in the annals
criminals have learned
their nefarious occu
officer, in stature ab
firmly built, with a
than one occasion
that he is not an agi
face is beardless, and
glint that denotes the
him to follow an o
and the greatest co
cleaned up the crimin
made its felons settl
Sheriff Watts has
years. He was reared
Mississippi, near the
he was born August
farm may have given
stitution, but it secur
his educational advan

Reuben Vail Watts (continued)

JOHN R. WATTS, wh
from Barber county,
1810, received a colle
chant at Rosser, and
farm in 1883. He was
religious connection w
R. WATTS narrued ELI
early date from Georgia
JESSE ASBURY the latt
at the outbreak of
North brought his dar
refugee. After the war
left two sons and a
subsequently died in
while the daughter is
Texas. MRS. ELIZABETH
August 9, 1815, in Georgia
Mississippi home. She
ents of the following ch
bama; JESSE, who died
who was killed at the
a Confederate soldier, in
ment participated; RICH
of Rebecca, Mississippi
son, who was killed at
wearing the uniform of
was a confederate cav
Mississippi, in 1886; A.
Mississippi; Reuben V.
resident of Laurel, Miss.

JOHN R. WATTS was a
his grandparents were
ual people of Georgia.
ASBURY were both soldie
plantations were tilled
the father of six childre

REUBEN V. WATTS edu
break of the Civil war
.....
.....
ingly brought his prisoner back to the scene of his crime, where he secured bail and returned to his family.

The record made by SHERIFF WATTS as an officer led to his candidacy for the appointment of United States Marshall of the Eastern District of Texas in 1913, and his petition to the President contained the endorsement of one hundred and twenty-seven of the Senators, all of the supreme judges of both courts of the state, and of numerous men of prominence in private life in Eastern Texas, yet the Texas United States senators made another recommendation for the place in the face of this formidable showing. MR. WATTS' interest in politics has let him into the councils of the Democratic party at home, and as a delegate to the state convention that nominated Governor Ross.

Reuben Vail Watts (continued)

On October 6, 1889, SHERIFF WATTS was untied in marriage in Lufkin, Texas, with MISS BEULAH DUNCAN, a daughter of MR. and MRS. WILEY DUNCAN. MR. DUNCAN was a native of Pontotoc county, Mississippi, while MRS. DUNCAN was born in Alabama, although she married her husband in Mississippi. MRS. WATTS was born in Texas. She and her husband have been the parents of two children: JOHN DUNCAN WATTS and MISS DELLA WATTS. MR. WATTS has been interested in fraternal matters, and is an Odd Fellow and an Elk and past district deputy grand chancellor of the Knights of Pythias and captain of Company S of the Uniformed Rank.

Benjamin Watts

Pension Papers of BENJAMIN WATTS (Copied by ?)

BENJAMIN WATTS, applies, September 20, 1834, at Washington County, Illinois, as a resident of Nashville, aged seventy years old, lacking a few days. He stated he entered the service of the U. S. under Captain or Lieut. Nathan Rice at Prince Edward Court House, Virginia, October 15, 1787. He enlisted as a substitute for his father, RICHARD WATTS, from Prince Edward County, Virginia. He was 23 yrs old.

He marched to Richmond, Virginia and was placed under command of Captain Thos. Newel and Lt. Slaughter. He continued in the service for six months and in guarding stores in Richmond under Captain Bush, and he thinks, Major Hamilton.

He states he was born in Cumberland County, Virginia, October 5th, 1764. He was living in Franklin County, Virginia, when called into the service. He lived since the Rev. a part of the time in Georgia, but for nearly twenty years was a resident of Washington County, Illinois.

His father was drafted into the service.

BENJAMIN WATTS died March 7th, 1840. His wife ELIZABETH WATTS died Feb 10, 1843.

Their living children on January 19, 1844 were:

HAYDEN WATTS at Clinton Co., Illinois
IVY WATTS at Washington Co., Illinois
HULL WATTS at Washington Co., Illinois
ELIZABETH FISHER of Texas. (wife of Rev. Orceneth Fisher)
Moved to Texas before her mother's death.

From Elizabeth's gggranddaughter Marjorie Marie Fisher Langford, Bandera, Texas 78003, 16 Nov 1976:

ELIZABETH WATTS Born Dec 1, 1805 in Georgia,
Died Nov 20, 1847 in Texas.
Married: REV. ORCENETH FISHER (1st wife)
Born Nov 15, 1803, Vermont
Died Aug 28, 1880, Texas
Son: ORCENETH ASBURY FISHER
Born July 4, 1831, Washington Co., Illinois
Died Dec 27, 1884, Utopia, Texas
Married: MARY SUSAN SIMONS, Dec 4, 1861, Texas
Born Jan 1, 1843, Texana, Republic of Texas
Died Jun 17, 1912, Utopia, Texas
Son: WILLIAM HARPER FISHER
Born Apr 12, 1875, San Marcos, Texas
Died Sep 17, 1943, Utopia, Texas
Married: MATTIE/MARTHA ELIZABETH TAYLOR
Married Jul 15, 1896, Bandera Co, Texas
Born Jul 15, 1876 Bandera Co, Texas
Died May 17, 1942, Utopia, Texas
Son: STERLING FISHER
Born Jun 24, 1897, Bandera Co., Texas
Married GRACE BUCKNER, Oct 26, 1919, Sabinal, TX
Born Mar 11, 1901, Bandera Co, TX

Benjamin Watts (continued)

Daughter: MARJORIE MARIE FISHER
Born Mar 5, 1921, Tulare, California
Married: JOHN R. LANGFORD, Jul 2, 1942
in Junction City, Kansas

Thomas Watts (continued)

RICHARD R. WATTS (Information from Nancy Robertson Harvey)

RICHARD R. WATTS was born about 1740 in Virginia.
His forebears came to America from Wales about 1680.
(Not verified.)

He married ELIZABETH TOWNSEND in 1763 in Amelia Co, Virginia.
ELIZABETH TOWNSEND, born in 1747, was the daughter
of JOHN TOWNSEND, who came from England to Virginia
when he was 16 years old, the only son of JAMES TOWNSEND.
JAMES TOWNSEND outlived his son, died in Greene County,
Georgia in 1802.

JOHN TOWNSEND died in 1795 in Wilkes Co., Georgia.
RICHARD WATTS and ELIZABETH TOWNSEND WATTS shared in his estate.

They moved to Wilkes Co., Georgia in 1785 or 1787 where
RICHARD WATTS DIED ON MAY 5, 1817.

HIS WIDOW, ELIZABETH TOWNSEND WATTS and
SON #3, WILLIAM HICKS WATTS administered his estate.

ELIZABETH TOWNSEND WATTS, wife and widow of RICHARD WATTS
DIED before 1847 in Greene Co., Georgia.
Her estate was administered by her son-in-law,
ASA STARR, the husband of RHODA WATTS.

Minutes of Inferior Court 1817-1824 Wilkes Co, Ga, page 5:

May 5, 1817...Petition of William Davis, Exc.,
Johnathan Davis, dec'd, to sell personal estate;

"...not of record, RICHARD R. WATTS, dec'd,
ELIZABETH WATTS, wife of RICHARD, dec'd,
chooses her dower and a child's share of
personal estate."

Also, Same Estate?: "Petition of Samuel Station Admrs. with
will annexed to Susanna Evans, dec'd to divide the estate."

The children: Judith Watts, Benjamin Watts, William Hicks/Hixs
Watts, Susan or Susanna Watts, Rhoda Watts,
Richard Watts, Orsons Watts, Thomas Watts,
Nancy S. Watts, John Watts,
Elizabeth Watts-her guardian was Thomas Watts.

The complete estate papers are owned by Dorothy Watts Marshall,
Quincy, Mi. (Michigan?)

She says that ELIZABETH TOWNSEND, born 1747, died before 1847

Thomas Watts (continued)

in Greene Co, Georgia. JOHN TOWNSEND who came from England to Virginia when he was 16 years old, the only son of JAMES TOWNSEND, who outlived him. JAMES TOWNSEND died in Greene Co., Georgia in 1802, leaving an unclaimed fortune in England. JOHN TOWNSEND died 1795 in Wilkes Co., Georgia. RICHARD and ELIZABETH TOWNSEND WATTS shared in his estate.

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Iver Johnson

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Born: | July 17, 1874 | Place: Denmark | Event 3: |
| Married: | ABOUT 1911 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 4: |
| Died: | July 5, 1960 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 5: |
| Event 1: | | Place: | Event 6: |
| Event 2: | | Place: | |
| Father: | | | |
| Mother: | | | |
| Other Spouses: | | | |

Wife: Rosa Gentile

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Born: | August 16, 1892 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 3: |
| Died: | September 9, 1975 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 4: |
| Event 1: | | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 2: | | Place: | |
| Father: | Anthony Gentile | | |
| Mother: | Concathice D'Antoni | | |
| Other Spouses: | | | |

| Sex M/F | Children | List each child (living or dead) in order of birth | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Name: | Marie Louise Johnson | | Spouse: |
| — | Born: | 1912 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | | Place: | Event 4: |
| | Died: | 1944 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 5: |
| 2. | Name: | Herman Johnson | | Spouse: Lenora Cox |
| — | Born: | ABOUT 1915 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 3: |
| M | Married: | | Place: | Event 4: |
| | Died: | | Place: | Event 5: |
| 3. | Name: | Josie Johnson | | Spouse: Charles Burke |
| — | Born: | December 26, 1917 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | | Place: | Event 4: |
| | Died: | December 1981 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 5: |
| 4. | Name: | Nora Antoinette Johnson | | Spouse: Lonnie Joseph Watts |
| — | Born: | July 4, 1920 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | September 1, 1941 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 4: |
| | Died: | April 17, 1986 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 5: |

Prepared by:
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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Herman Johnson

Born: ABOUT 1915 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Iver Johnson
Mother: Rosa Gentile
Other Spouses:

Wife: Lenora Cox

Born: Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Johnson One Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Johnson Two Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Johnson Three Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Johnson Four Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Husband: Herman Johnson | | | | Yr of Birth: 1915 |
| Wife: Lenora Cox | | | | Yr of Birth: |
| Sex | Children (continued) | | | |
| 5. | Name: Johnson Five | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 6. | Name: Johnson Six | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 7. | Name: Johnson Seven | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 8. | Name: Johnson Eight | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 9. | Name: | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 10. | Name: | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 11. | Name: | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Charles Burke

Born: September 7, 1911 Place: New Jersey Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: May 4, 1986 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Wife: Josie Johnson

Born: December 26, 1917 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Died: December 1981 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Iver Johnson
Mother: Rosa Gentile
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Lonnie Joseph Watts

Born: November 22, 1915 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Married: September 1, 1941 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 4:
Died: January 28, 1962 Place: New Orleans, LA Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Lonnie Leuba Watts, Sr.
Mother: Emma Ida Davidson
Other Spouses:

Wife: Nora Antoinette Johnson

Born: July 4, 1920 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Died: April 17, 1986 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 4:
Event 1: April 19, 1986 Place: Machpelah Cemetery Event 5:
Event 2: 1938 Place: Queen Pascagoula High School Carvival
Father: Iver Johnson
Mother: Rosa Gentile
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Daryl Gerard Watts Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
M Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Wanda Marie Watts Spouse: Ramsay
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Joseph Alton Watts Spouse: Suzanne Pinson
— Born: July 11, 1945 Place: Event 3:
M Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Infant Watts Spouse:
— Born: August 24, 1950 Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Husband: Lonnie Joseph Watts | | | Yr of Birth: | 1915 |
| Wife: Nora Antoinette Johnson | | | Yr of Birth: | 1920 |
| Sex Children (continued) | | | | |
| 5. Name: Walter Wayne Watts | | Spouse: Teri McDaniel | | |
| — Born: March 9, 1955 | Place: | | Event 3: | |
| M Married: | Place: | | Event 4: | |
| Died: | Place: | | Event 5: | |
| 6. Name: | | Spouse: | | |
| — Born: | Place: | | Event 3: | |
| Married: | Place: | | Event 4: | |
| Died: | Place: | | Event 5: | |
| 7. Name: | | Spouse: | | |
| — Born: | Place: | | Event 3: | |
| Married: | Place: | | Event 4: | |
| Died: | Place: | | Event 5: | |
| 8. Name: | | Spouse: | | |
| — Born: | Place: | | Event 3: | |
| Married: | Place: | | Event 4: | |
| Died: | Place: | | Event 5: | |
| 9. Name: | | Spouse: | | |
| — Born: | Place: | | Event 3: | |
| Married: | Place: | | Event 4: | |
| Died: | Place: | | Event 5: | |
| 10. Name: | | Spouse: | | |
| — Born: | Place: | | Event 3: | |

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Chester Stonewall Watts

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: October 5, 1902 | Place: St. Elmo, Mobile Co AL | Event 3: |
| Married: October 20, 1927 | Place: | Event 4: |
| Died: March 8, 1960 | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 6: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: Josiah Carter Watts | | |
| Mother: Willie Caroline Pack | | |
| Other Spouses: | | |

Wife: Dessie Baker

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: | Place: | Event 3: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 4: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: | | |
| Mother: | | |
| Other Spouses: Albert Millgren | | |

Sex M/F Children — List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Name: Betty Diane Watts | | Spouse: Sidney W. Coan |
| — | Born: | Place: | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | Event 5: |

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: "Joe" William Joseph Watts

Born: January 25, 1891 Place: Alabama Event 3:
Married: May 8, 1910 Place: Event 4:
Died: September 25, 1945 Place: Event 5:
Event 1: 1941 Place: Lived in W. Monroe, La Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Josiah Carter Watts
Mother: Willie Caroline Pack
Other Spouses:

Wife: Anna Delia Clark

Born: October 12, 1891 Place: Jackson, Alabama Event 3:
Died: May 31, 1979 Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Jules Watts Spouse: Evelyn
— Born: Place: Event 3:
M Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Evelyn Watts Spouse: P. Wayne Parker
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Mildred Watts Spouse:
— Born: February 7, 1911 Place: Jones Co MS Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: January 27, 1912 Place: Hickory Grove Cem, Laurel, MS Event 5:

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Jules Watts

Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: "Joe" William Joseph Watts
Mother: Anna Delia Clark
Other Spouses:

Wife: Evelyn

Born: Place: Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex Children List each child (living or dead)
M/F in order of birth

1. Name: Joe Craig Watts Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
M Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Daughter Watts Spouse: Bob Hurst
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

Mildred Watts

Family knowledge:
Baby Mildred died at eleven months. While playing, her father threw her up and she hit her head on the ceiling.
Father, Joe, was 6'6", 250 lbs.

Buried in Hickory Grove Cemetery, Laurel, Jones Co MS. Section J

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: P. Wayne Parker

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: | Place: | Event 3: |
| Married: | Place: | Event 4: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 6: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: | | |
| Mother: | | |
| Other Spouses: | | |

Wife: Evelyn Watts

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: | Place: | Event 3: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 4: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: "Joe" William Joseph Watts | | |
| Mother: Anna Delia Clark | | |
| Other Spouses: | | |

Sex Children List each child (living or dead)
M/F in order of birth

1. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: William Irvin Thornton

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: | Place: Laurel, Jones Co MS | Event 3: |
| Married: December 24, 1908 | Place: | Event 4: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 6: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: | | |
| Mother: | | |
| Other Spouses: | | |

Wife: "Sally" Sara Elizabeth Watts

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: ABOUT 1889 | Place: | Event 3: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 4: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: Josiah Carter Watts | | |
| Mother: Willie Caroline Pack | | |
| Other Spouses: | | |

| Sex M/F | Children | List each child (living or dead) in order of birth | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Name: Watts Irvin Thornton, Sr. | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| M | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 2. | Name: Edith Thornton | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 3. | Name: Ethel Thornton | | Spouse: R. V. Shipp | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 4. | Name: | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |

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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Lonnie Leuba Watts, Sr.

Born: 1893 Place: Event 3:
Married: April 26, 1915 Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Josiah Carter Watts
Mother: Willie Caroline Pack
Other Spouses:

Wife: Emma Ida Davidson

Born: Place: Pascagoula Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Lonnie Leuba Watts, Jr. Spouse: Nora Antoinette Johnson
— Born: November 22, 1915 Place: Event 3:
M Married: September 1, 1941 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 4:
Died: January 28, 1962 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 5:

2. Name: Alton Watts Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Lonnie Leuba Watts, Jr.

Born: November 22, 1915 Place: Event 3:
Married: September 1, 1941 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 4:
Died: January 28, 1962 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Lonnie Leuba Watts, Sr.
Mother: Emma Ida Davidson
Other Spouses:

Wife: Nora Antoinette Johnson

Born: July 4, 1920 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Died: April 17, 1986 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 4:
Event 1: April 19, 1986 Place: Machpelah Cemetery Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Daryl Gerard Watts Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
M Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Wanda Marie Watts Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Joseph Alton Watts Spouse: Suzanne Pinson
— Born: July 11, 1945 Place: Event 3:
M Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Infant Watts Spouse:
— Born: August 24, 1950 Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

Prepared by:
Else Martin
6301 Country Lane
Pascagoula, MS 39581 Phone: 601-588-6520

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Husband: Lonnie Leuba Watts, Jr. | | | | Yr of Birth: 1915 |
| Wife: Nora Antoinette Johnson | | | | Yr of Birth: 1920 |
| Sex Children (continued) | | | | |
| 5. | Name: Walter Wayne Watts | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: March 9, 1955 | Place: | | Event 3: |
| M | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 6. | Name: | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 7. | Name: | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 8. | Name: | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |

Nora Antoinette Johnson

Mississippi Press, April 18, 1986

WATTS

Mrs. Nora Antoinette Watts, 65, 1009 Lake Ave., Pascagoula, died Thursday, April 17, 1986, at Singing River Hospital. Mrs. Watts was born July 5, 1920, in Pascagoula and was a lifelong resident. She was retired employee of the Welcome Center. Mrs. Watts was a member of Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church and the Stitch Club.

Survivors are three sons, Joe Alton Watts, Biloxi; Daryl Watts, Pascagoula; Walter Watts, Houston, Texas; a daughter, Mrs. Wanda M. Ramsay, Mobile; a brother, Herman J. Johnson, Pascagoula; five granddaughters, two grandsons, and other relatives.

Visitation will be tonight, april 18, at O'Bryant Funeral Home from 6-9 p.m. Rosary will be recited at 8 p.m.

Funeral service will be Saturday, April 19, at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church.

Interment will be in Machpelah Cemetery.

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Joseph Alton Watts

Born: July 11, 1945 Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: 1986 Place: Lived in Biloxi, MS Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Lonnie Leuba Watts, Jr.
Mother: Nora Antoinette Johnson
Other Spouses:

Wife: Suzanne Pinson

Born: Place: Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex Children List each child (living or dead)
M/F in order of birth

1. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Walter Wayne Watts

Born: March 9, 1955 Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: 1985 Place: Lives in Houston, Texas Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Lonnie Leuba Watts, Jr.
Mother: Nora Antoinette Johnson
Other Spouses:

Wife: Teri McDaniel

Born: Place: Vancleave Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Bill McDaniel
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex Children List each child (living or dead)
M/F in order of birth

1. Name: Jonathan Watts Spouse:
— Born: 1983 Place: Event 3:
M Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Victoria Lynn Watts Spouse:
— Born: July 5, 1985 Place: Houston, Texas Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Ramsay

Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: 1986 Place: Lived in Mobile, Alabama Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Wife: Wanda Marie Watts

Born: Place: Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Lonnie Leuba Watts, Jr.
Mother: Nora Antoinette Johnson
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

Prepared by:
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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: John Pugh

Born:
Married: ABOUT 1934
Died:
Event 1:
Event 2:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Place:
Place:
Place: Pontchatoula, LA
Place:
Place:

Event 3:
Event 4:
Event 5:
Event 6:

Wife: Molly Pugh

Born:
Died:
Event 1:
Event 2:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Place:
Place: Pontchatoula, LA
Place:
Place:

Event 3:
Event 4:
Event 5:

| Sex M/F | Children | List each child (living or dead) in order of birth | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Name: Timothy Pugh | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| M | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 2. | Name: Sadie Pugh | | Spouse: Jack Mashburn | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 3. | Name: Rose Emma Pugh | | Spouse: Joe Watts Martin, Sr. | |
| — | Born: January 12, 1909 | Place: Ponchatoula, Tangiapohoa Par LA | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: April 23, 1934 | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: January 30, 1995 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | | Event 5: |
| 4. | Name: | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |

Prepared by:
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Rose Emma Pugh

Mass of the Resurrection
in honor of
ROSE EMMA PUGH MARTIN
Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church
Pascagoula, MS
Wednesday, February 1, 1995
January 12, 1909
January 30, 1995

"The theme of this Mass is a joyful thanksgiving to God for the life of Rose Martin and a quiet expression of belief that God will lovingly receive her into His Kingdom."

Mrs. ROSE EMMA PUGH MARTIN

Mrs. Rose Emma Pugh Martin, 86, Pascagoula, died Monday, January 30, 1995. She was born January 12, 1909 in Ponchatoula, La. With her husband, she was co-founder and co-owner of Pugh's Floral Shop in Pascagoula. She was a member of Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church in Pascagoula. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Molly Pugh of Pontchatoula, La; one son, Charles L. Martin; four brothers; one sister and one granddaughter, Katherine Elizabeth Foster.

Survivors include her husband of 60 years, Joe Watts Martin, Sr., Pascagoula; four daughters, Mr. and Mrs. L. Walker (Joanne) Foster, Pascagoula, Mr. and Frank W. (Roselyn) Richard, Baton Rouge, La., Mrs. Marilyn M. Bullis, Pascagoula and Dr. Maureen K. Martin, Hattiesburg; daughter-in-law, Mrs. Jeanie F. Martin, Pascagoula; two sons, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Watts (Kay) Martin, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. James H. (Rita) Martin, both of Pascagoula; one brother, Tim Pugh, Sr., Silver Springs, Md.; one sister, Sadie Mashburn, Hammond, La.; twenty grandchildren; nine great-grandchilden; nieces, nephews; and other relatives.

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Leroy "Walker" Foster

Born: January 17, 1928 Place: Anacoco, LA Event 3:
Married: September 30, 1956 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Leroy "Roy" Foster
Mother: Ivon Theresa Walker
Other Spouses:

Wife: Joanne Alice Martin

Born: March 16, 1935 Place: McComb, Pike Co MS Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Joe Watts Martin, Sr.
Mother: Rose Emma Pugh
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Jennifer Alice Foster 1st spouse: Barry Wayne Jackson
— Born: July 26, 1958 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
F Married: April 24, 1976 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Katherine Elizabeth Foster Spouse:
— Born: March 11, 1961 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
F Married: Place: Never Married Event 4:
Died: February 23, 1980 Place: Mobile, Mobile Co AL Event 5:

3. Name: Leroy Walker Foster, Jr. Spouse: Meg Lovorn
— Born: May 2, 1963 Place: Event 3:
M Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Mary Angela Foster Spouse:
— Born: November 23, 1964 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: November 25, 1964 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 5:

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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Husband: Leroy "Walker" Foster | | | | Yr of Birth: 1928 |
| Wife: Joanne Alice Martin | | | | Yr of Birth: 1935 |
| Sex | Children (continued) | | | |
| 5. | Name: Ivon Rose Foster | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: February 2, 1967 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 6. | Name: Joseph Whitfield Foster | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: September 29, 1968 | Place: | | Event 3: |
| M | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 7. | Name: George Timothy Foster | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: December 31, 1969 | Place: | | Event 3: |
| M | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 8. | Name: Matthew Benjamin Foster | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: August 4, 1976 | Place: | | Event 3: |
| M | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 9. | Name: | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 10. | Name: | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Barry Wayne Jackson

Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: April 24, 1976 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Wife: Jennifer Alice Foster

Born: July 26, 1958 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Leroy "Walker" Foster
Mother: Joanne Alice Martin
Other Spouses: John Joseph Pribanic IV

Sex Children List each child (living or dead)
M/F in order of birth

1. Name: Barry Wayne Jackson, Jr. Spouse:
— Born: August 5, 1976 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
M Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: John Joseph Pribanic IV

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: | Place: | Event 3: |
| Married: October 5, 1979 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 4: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 6: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: | | |
| Mother: | | |
| Other Spouses: | | |

Wife: Jennifer Alice Foster

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: July 26, 1958 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 3: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 4: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: Leroy "Walker" Foster | | |
| Mother: Joanne Alice Martin | | |
| Other Spouses: Barry Wayne Jackson | | |

| Sex M/F | Children | List each child (living or dead) in order of birth | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Name: | John Joseph Pribanic V | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | November 20, 1980 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 3: |
| M | Married: | | Place: | Event 4: |
| | Died: | | Place: | Event 5: |
| 2. | Name: | Kelli Rose Pribanic | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | March 17, 1982 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | | Place: | Event 4: |
| | Died: | | Place: | Event 5: |
| 3. | Name: | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | | Place: | Event 3: |
| | Married: | | Place: | Event 4: |

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Leroy Walker Foster, Jr.

Born: May 2, 1963 Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Leroy "Walker" Foster
Mother: Joanne Alice Martin
Other Spouses:

Wife: Meg Lovorn

Born: Place: Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex Children List each child (living or dead)
M/F in order of birth

1. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Leroy "Roy" Foster

Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: 1920 Place: Event 4:
Died: June 9, 1979 Place: Louisiana Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Wife: Ivon Theresa Walker

Born: May 31, 1903 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Died: January 10, 1929 Place: Leesville, LA Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Whitfield "Whit" Wesley Walker
Mother: Cora Elizabeth Davis
Other Spouses:

| Sex M/F | Children | List each child (living or dead) in order of birth | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. M | Name: Whitfield Foster<br>Born: October 2, 1922<br>Married:<br>Died: | Place:<br>Place:<br>Place: | Spouse: | Event 3:<br>Event 4:<br>Event 5: |
| 2. F | Name: Rita Foster<br>Born: January 8, 1924<br>Married:<br>Died: | Place:<br>Place:<br>Place: | Spouse: | Event 3:<br>Event 4:<br>Event 5: |
| 3. M | Name: Leroy "Walker" Foster<br>Born: January 17, 1928<br>Married: September 30, 1956<br>Died: | Place: Anacoco, LA<br>Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS<br>Place: | Spouse: Joanne Alice Martin | Event 3:<br>Event 4:<br>Event 5: |
| 4. | Name:<br>Born:<br>Married:<br>Died: | Place:<br>Place:<br>Place: | Spouse: | Event 3:<br>Event 4:<br>Event 5: |

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Leroy Walker Foster

MOTHER OF LEROY "WALKER" FOSTER.....

Pascagoula News Item, The Chronicle, Pascagoula, MS. Jan 11, 1929.

"The community was shocked on Monday, when the news of the death of Mrs. Leroy Foster of Shreveport, La., was received. Before her marriage, Mrs. Foster was Miss Ivon Walker, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Whit Walker of this city, and is survived by her husband and three little children, her parents and three sisters, Misses Cora Belle Walker, Grace Walker and Betty Walker, and numerous relative and countless friends who mourn her loss.

Obituary of Mrs Leroy (Ivon Theresa Walker) Foster, Jan 11, 1929.
The Chronicle, Pascagoula, MS.

MRS. LEROY FOSTER....

The funeral of this young woman was held Tuesday afternoon, January 8, from the residence of her parents in Cedar street, interment in Greenwood cemetery, Rev. Z. T. Sullivan officiating. Mrs. Foster died early Monday morning at Leesville, La., where she had been removed for treatment, her home being Anacoco, La.

Mrs. Foster's maiden name was Ivon Walker, being the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Walker of this city. She was born in Pascagoula 25 years ago and lived here until married to Mr. Foster a few years ago. She was a student of Pascagoula High School and numbered as her friends many of the young people of the city, being one of the liviest and most popular girls of her set.

Deceased is survived by her parents, three sisters and her husband and three small children. This paper joins with the entire community in expressions of sympathy for the bereaved ones.

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Whitfield "Whit" Wesley Walker

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: | Place: | Event 3: |
| Married: | Place: | Event 4: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 6: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: | | |
| Mother: | | |
| Other Spouses: | | |

Wife: Cora Elizabeth Davis

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: | Place: | Event 3: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 4: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: | | |
| Mother: | | |
| Other Spouses: | | |

| Sex M/F | Children | List each child (living or dead) in order of birth | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Name: Grace Walker | | Spouse: George Steele | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 2. | Name: Cora Belle Walker | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: Never Married | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 3. | Name: Betty Walker | | Spouse: Walter Gulley | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 4. | Name: Ivon Theresa Walker | | Spouse: Leroy "Roy" Foster | |
| — | Born: May 31, 1903 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: 1920 | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: January 10, 1929 | Place: Leesville, LA | | Event 5: |

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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Frank W. Richard

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: | Place: Louisiana | Event 3: |
| Married: | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 4: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 6: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: | | |
| Mother: | | |
| Other Spouses: | | |

Wife: Roselyn Marie Martin

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: 1936 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 3: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 4: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: Joe Watts Martin, Sr. | | |
| Mother: Rose Emma Pugh | | |
| Other Spouses: | | |

| Sex M/F | Children | List each child (living or dead) in order of birth | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Name: Pam Richard | | Spouse: Mark Andrew Batzer | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 2. | Name: Mark Richard | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| M | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 3. | Name: Timothy Richard | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| M | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 4. | Name: | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: | | Event 3: |
| | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Charles Lawrence Martin

Born: October 1941 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Married: Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 4:
Died: Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Joe Watts Martin, Sr.
Mother: Rose Emma Pugh
Other Spouses:

Wife: Gloria Jean "Jeannie" Fairley

Born: Place: Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex Children List each child (living or dead)
M/F in order of birth

1. Name: Amy Martin Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

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FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: William E. "Bill" Nelson

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: | Place: | Event 3: |
| Married: | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 4: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 6: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: | | |
| Mother: | | |
| Other Spouses: | | |

Wife: Marilyn Martin M Ann? 5302 River Rd Pasc 39567 769-6781

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: 1943 | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | Event 3: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 4: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: Joe Watts Martin, Sr. | | |
| Mother: Rose Emma Pugh | | |
| Other Spouses: Harvey Bullis | | |

| Sex M/F | Children | List each child (living or dead) in order of birth | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Name: Donna Nelson | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 2. | Name: Bill Nelson | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | | Event 3: |
| M | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 3. | Name: Dave Nelson | | Spouse: | |
| — | Born: | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | | Event 3: |
| M | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |
| 4. | Name: Theresa Nelson | | Spouse: Richard "Richie" Noblett | |
| — | Born: | Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS | | Event 3: |
| F | Married: | Place: | | Event 4: |
| | Died: | Place: | | Event 5: |

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Joseph "Joe" Watts Martin, Jr.

Born: June 18, 1948 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Married: January 9, 1970 Place: Montgomery, Alabama Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Joe Watts Martin, Sr.
Mother: Rose Emma Pugh
Other Spouses: "Kay" Sandra Kay Roberts

Wife: "Marty" Martha Philip Ware

Born: July 17, 1951 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Phillip "Phil" Lyons Ware
Mother: Mildred Elizabeth Moody
Other Spouses: David Anthony Lowery

Sex Children List each child (living or dead)
M/F in order of birth

1. Name: Joseph Watts Martin, III Spouse:
— Born: October 29, 1970 Place: Event 3:
M Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Timothy Lyons Martin Spouse:
— Born: November 30, 1973 Place: Event 3:
M Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

Prepared by:
Else Martin
6301 Country Lane
Pascagoula, MS 39581 Phone: 601-588-6520

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Joseph "Joe" Watts Martin, Jr.

Born: June 18, 1948 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Married: June 8, 1985 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Joe Watts Martin, Sr.
Mother: Rose Emma Pugh
Other Spouses: "Marty" Martha Philip Ware

Wife: "Kay" Sandra Kay Roberts

Born: Place: Hattiesburg, Forrest Co MS Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Fred Roberts
Mother: Dorothy Ladner
Other Spouses: J. C. Keith

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

Prepared by:
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Pascagoula, MS 39581 Phone: 601-588-6520

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: David Anthony Lowery

Born: April 27, 1954 Place: Escatawpa, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Married: December 29, 1990 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Wife: "Marty" Martha Philip Ware

Born: July 17, 1951 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Phillip "Phil" Lyons Ware
Mother: Mildred Elizabeth Moody
Other Spouses: Joseph "Joe" Watts Martin, Jr.

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

Prepared by:
Else Martin
5301 Country Lane
Pascagoula, MS 39581 Phone: 601-588-6520

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: David Anthony Lowery

Born: April 27, 1954 Place: Escatawpa, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses: "Marty" Martha Philip Ware

Wife:

Born: Place: Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex Children List each child (living or dead)
M/F in order of birth

1. Name: Miranda Lyn Lowery Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Phillip "Phil" Lyons Ware

Born: December 31, 1912 Place: Vancleave, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: May 15, 1986 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Wife: Mildred Elizabeth Moody

Born: Place: Picayune, MS Event 3:
Died: December 23, 1989 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Cynthia Elizabeth Ware Spouse: Charles Wendell Everitt
— Born: Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: "Dell" Mildred Adell Ware Spouse: John Virgil Gully
— Born: Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
F Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: "Marty" Martha Philip Ware 1st spouse: Joseph "Joe" Watts Martin, Jr.
— Born: July 17, 1951 Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
F Married: January 9, 1970 Place: Montgomery, Alabama Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

Prepared by:
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6301 Country Lane
Pascagoula, MS 39581 Phone: 601-588-6520

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: Charles Wendell Everitt

Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Wife: Cynthia Elizabeth Ware

Born: Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Phillip "Phil" Lyons Ware
Mother: Mildred Elizabeth Moody
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

Prepared by:
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Pascagoula, MS 39581 Phone: 601-588-6520

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: John Virgil Gully

Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Wife: "Dell" Mildred Adell Ware

Born: Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Phillip "Phil" Lyons Ware
Mother: Mildred Elizabeth Moody
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

4. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

Prepared by:
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Pascagoula, MS 39581 Phone: 601-588-6520

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband: James Hannon Martin

Born: 1947 Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Pascagoula, Jackson Co MS Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:
Event 1: Place: Event 6:
Event 2: Place:
Father: Joe Watts Martin, Sr.
Mother: Rose Emma Pugh
Other Spouses:

Wife: Eleanor Rita Moore

Born: Place: Event 3:
Died: Place: Event 4:
Event 1: Place: Event 5:
Event 2: Place:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Sex M/F Children List each child (living or dead) in order of birth

1. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

2. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

3. Name: Spouse:
— Born: Place: Event 3:
Married: Place: Event 4:
Died: Place: Event 5:

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

January 20, 1997

Husband:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: | Place: | Event 3: |
| Married: | Place: | Event 4: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 6: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: | | |
| Mother: | | |
| Other Spouses: | | |

Wife: Maureen Martin

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Born: 1950 | Place: | Event 3: |
| Died: | Place: | Event 4: |
| Event 1: | Place: | Event 5: |
| Event 2: | Place: | |
| Father: Joe Watts Martin, Sr. | | |
| Mother: Rose Emma Pugh | | |
| Other Spouses: | | |

| Sex M/F | Children | List each child (living or dead) in order of birth |
|---|---|---|

# Alabama Records Report From Search

| Surname | GivenName | Vol | P1 | P2 | P3 | P4 | P5 | P6 | P7 | P8 | P9 | P10 | P11 | P12 | P13 | P14 | P15 | P16 | P17 | P18 | P19 | P20 | County | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Watts | Col. Frederic | 4 | 104 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Madison | |
| Watts | Jeremiah | 5 | 40 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Multiple | NewsPapers |
| Watts | J.J. | 7 | 77 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Tuscaloosa | |
| Watts | Saleah | 8 | 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Tuscaloosa | |
| Watts | Clinton | 10 | 98 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jefferson | |
| Watts | Eliza | 10 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jefferson | |
| Watts | Malinda | 10 | 65 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jefferson | |
| Watts | Martha | 10 | 34 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jefferson | |
| Watts | Cary | 12 | 90 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Madison | NewsPapers |
| Watts | Eliz. C. | 13 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Tuscaloosa | |
| Watts | Mr. | 16 | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Various | Newspapers |
| Watts | Clinton | 18 | 41 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jefferson | |
| Watts | Malachiah | 18 | 32 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jefferson | |
| Watts | Vincent | 18 | 41 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jefferson | |
| Watts | Vinson | 18 | 28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jefferson | |
| Watts | George | 20 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Greene | |
| Watts | Peyton | 20 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Greene | |
| Watts | William L. | 20 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Greene | |
| Watts | William P. | 20 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Greene | |
| Watts | George | 23 | 53 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Talledega | |
| Watts | Gracy | 23 | 53 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Talledega | |
| Watts | Joseph | 23 | 53 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Talledega | |
| Watts | Mary | 23 | 68 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Talledega | |
| Watts | Mitchell | 23 | 68 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Talledega | |
| Watts | Capt. | 24 | 87 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | LimeStone | |
| Watts | Abraham | 25 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Tuscaloosa | |
| Watts | Daniel B. | 25 | 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Tuscaloosa | |
| Watts | Clinton | 26 | 43 | 66 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jefferson | |
| Watts | Clinton | 30 | 23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jefferson | |
| Watts | Isaac | 30 | 66 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jefferson | |
| Watts | Gov. Thoma | 36 | 77 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jackson | |
| Watts | Clinton | 37 | 62 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jefferson | |

GENTILE

# ATTEND THE BRIDE

Sept. 12 1941

The attendants to the bride at the marriage of Miss Nora Johnson to Lonnie Watts, popular young Pascagoula couple are shown above. They are (left to right) Miss Dorothy Gentile, Gulfport; Miss Josie Johnson, sister of the bride, maid of honor; Miss Le Nore Cox, Pascagoula; and Miss Lillian Davidson of New Orleans, cousin of Mr. Watts. The little flower girls are (left to right) Miss Joy Gentile and Miss Joanne Gentile, twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. John Gentile. —Photo by Gulf Coast Studios.

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GENTILE

# RECENT BRIDE

Miss Nora Johnson, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Iver Johnson, who became the bride of Lonnie Watts, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Watts, on September 1, at 6 o'clock. The wedding took place in Our Lady of Victories Church and was one of the prettiest weddings of the year. Mr. and Mrs. Watts returned early this week from their wedding trip to Texas. Sept. 12, 1941

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Joan

**"Many things are recorded
of the United States
Destroyer Squadron 23.
The one thing never recorded
of them
is that they took counsel
of their fears,
for they did not.
They were confident
in competence,
strong in faith,
and for them,
the bell never tolled
and it never will.
It pealed a clear signal
of their courage,
their conviction
and their dedication
even unto death.
And in pealing for them,
it peals also
for thee and for me."**

Ken Jones

# U.S.S. FOOTE
# DD-511
# LITTLE BEAVER SQUADRON
# DESRON-23

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

## BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## OCTOBER 10, 1999

**"No unit in the entire history of the United States Navy ever achieved such competence and such confidence in so short a time and in such magnificent measure as did the gallant squadron. Their victories in battle were great. Their victories in faith and dedication were greater."**

**Ken Jones**

RK

# Memorial Service

# BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

October 10, 1999

| | |
|---|---|
| Invocation | Edgar Forrest |
| Pledge of Allegiance | Wilbur V. Rogers |
| Reading of the Little Beaver Squadron Quotation (back page) | Wilbur V. Rogers |
| Roll Call of Names With | Monte Moncrief |
| Ringing of the Bells | Wilbur V. Rogers |
| Benediction | Edgar Forrest |

IN MEMORIUM

TO THE MEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES DURING
WORLD WAR II WHILE SERVING THEIR COUNTRY
ABOARD THIS SHIP, WE HUMBLY DEDICATE
THIS MEMORIAL SERVICE.

October 10, 1999
Boston, Massachusetts

USS FOOTE (DD-511)

DENNIS E. BLEASDALE
WILLIAM C. BLOUGOURAS
AAEON J. BLUE
ROBERT J. BUSH
HAROLD E. COOPER
JAMES CONSTANTINI
PHILLIP J. COLOTTA
CHARLES DRAGOO
PETER J. GAIDIS
ALFRED W. GRANT
JOHN HENKLE
RAYMOND A. JONES
EDMUND K. LAMBERT
EUGENE H. LONG
HARVARD A. MIX
THEODORE J. O'DELL
MAX TUDOR
GEORGE E. WATSON
ALTON J. WATTS
ORLANDEITH C. WHEATLEY

A CHRONICLE-STAR COMBINED WITH THE MOSS POINT ADVERTISER
FEB. 27, 1942

GENTILE

# RULE OVER K. OF C. BALL

Members of the court of the Pascagoula Council Knights of Columbus carnival ball are shown above as they took their places as the principals in this brilliant event, Mardi Gras night. They are left to right—Vincent Ros, master of ceremonies; Miss Dorothy Olsen, Corporal Nickie Mazzie, Miss Marie Westbrook, Armand Jonte, Jr., Mrs. James Sweeney, Vincent Moore, James A. Sweeney, King Columbus II; David Goleman, Mobile; Miss Mathilde Delmas, Queen Isabella II; Miss Jane Ros, Queen Isabella I; Miss Joy Gentile, trainbearer; Bernard Hayden, Gulfport; Miss Joanne Gentile, trainbearer Miss Gloria Grant; W. Guy Krebs, Jr., Miss Virginia Gaisser, Corporal Raymond Whatkins, Miss Dorothy Krebs and "Happy Walker, herald.

—Photo By Beebe

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GENTILE FILE

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS
ARCHIVES
1100 CHARTRES STREET
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4 March 1980

Chancellor: Rev. Monsignor Earl C. Woods
Archivist: Sister Marguerite Brou, O.P.
Director: Miss Claire E. O'Donnell

Telephone (504) 529-2651

EXTRACT FROM MARRIAGE REGISTER ST. ANTHONY CHAPEL - NEW ORLEANS, LA.

NO. 57

ANTONINO GENTILE with CONCETTA D'ANTONIO

On this first day of December of 1888, I the undersigned having viewed the license from the Board of Health, to unite in matrimony ANTONINO GENTILE, aged thirty-two years, a native of Palermo, son of GIUSEPPE GENTILE and of ROSA DuPIETRO, of the first part, and CONCETTA DiANTONIO, aged eighteen, a native of Palermo, daughter of CARMELO D'ANTONIO and of MARIA FONTANA, of the other part, in the presence of three witnesses, who have signed with the contracting and with me
/s/ Antonino Gentile /s/ Conchita Dantouni
/s/ Hy. Joachim + mark of Francisco D'Antoni
+ mark of Francisca D'Antoni
/s/ J. A. Manoritta

---

This is a certified direct translation (from the Italian) of the original entry of the Marriage Register of St. Anthony Chapel (now Our Lady of Guadalupe).
Book of Marriages III (1887-1896) Page 39 Act 57

Earl C. Woods per ADF
Rev. Msgr. Earl C. Woods
Chancellor

Alice D. Forsyth
Alice D. Forsyth
Archivist - Church Registers

- more

news on this later.

**ITALIAN RECORDS**

Elaine Oneto has the microfilmed civil registration — births, marriages and deaths — of Terava, Palermo, Sicily, on permanent loan at the Family History Center in Gulfport. The microfilm is an index to the years 1820-1895.

She says anyone who is researching this same area is welcome to use the film. "I can't tell you how helpful these records have been in tracing part of my family tree," she said.

Many rolls of microfilm at Family History have been obtained by others on either short-term or long -term loan. It is general policy that other researchers may use the film, as long as the original borrower does not want to use the film at the same time.

Send all correspondence to this column to "Branches & Twigs," The Mississippi Press, P.O. Box 849, Pascagoula, MS 39568, or you can e-mail her at CQKB28A@Prodigy.com.

*Regina Hines, city editor, is a certified genealogical record specialist.* Regina Hines

Domenico Fontana
Father of —
Tony & Joseph Gentile

Carmelo of Palermo. died
D'antoni Oct. 26-1882
his son. Francesco

Concathice D'antoni -
Born June 22 - 1871
M. Antonino Gentile Dec 1-1888
Native of Palermo - Son of
Giuseppe Gentile & Rosa Du Pietro

Anthony Gentile d. Mar 5, 1905

HANCOCK BANK

Concetta D'antonio Native
of Palermo - daughter of
Carmelo D'antonio & Maria
Fontana - Died 1876

HANCOCK BANK

**Pascagoula Public Library**
**Genealogy & Local History Dept.**
**Watts Family File #2**

331



Woolly was Miss Mattie Dawkins. Her father, Colonel J. P. Dawkins, who settled in Texas at a comparatively recent time, was from South Carolina, and by his marriage to Miss Agnes Martin had the following children: Preston, Anna, John, Thomas, Mrs. Woolly, and Maggie. Throughout his business career Mr. Woolly has followed a liberal policy in his varied dealings as a capitalist. He has aided many homeseekers in obtaining farms, and has loaned out a great deal of money on easy terms, and not one of his debtors has ever had reason to complain of his treatment and he has never taken advantage of misfortune.

Reuben V. Watts is one of Texas' famous sheriffs and has won his distinction and the right to his title by actual achievement as a sleuth and an enforcer of the law. His administration of his office has set a new record in the annals of tiptoe-stepping, and professional criminals have learned to shun his dominion when plying their nefarious occupation. Sheriff Watts is the ideal officer, in stature above six feet tall, large of frame and finely built, with a leisurely stride that has on more than one occasion deceived the unwary into thinking that he is not an agile and active man. His full, ruddy face is beardless, and in his eyes there may be seen the glint that denotes the presence of the force which impels him to follow an offender with untiring perseverance and the greatest courage. Such is the man who has cleaned up the criminal docket of Angelina county and made its felons settle with the law.

Sheriff Watts has been a resident of Texas for thirty years. He was reared seventeen miles east of Meridian, Mississippi, near the village of Rosser, Alabama, where he was born August 19, 1856. His country life on the farm may have given him his sturdy build and iron constitution, but it secured him little literary training, for his educational advantages were few. His father was John R. Watts, who settled in Alabama in 1833, coming from Barber county, Georgia, where he was born in 1810, received a college education and became a merchant at Rosser, and at the latter place he died on his farm in 1883. He was a Democrat in politics, and his religious connection was with the Baptist church. John R. Watts married Elizabeth Asbury, who moved at an early date from Georgia to Alabama with her father, Jesse Asbury, the latter of whom was a slaveowner and at the outbreak of the war between the South and the North brought his darkies to Leon county, Texas, as a refugee. After the war he returned to Alabama, but left two sons and a daughter in Texas, and the sons subsequently died in Falls county, and left families, while the daughter is Mrs. Winnie Seals, of Marquez, Texas. Mrs. Elizabeth (Asbury) Watts was born August 9, 1815, in Georgia, and died May 30, 1905, in her Mississippi home. She and her husband were the parents of the following children: William H., of Cuba, Alabama; Jesse, who died in Mississippi in 1893; John T., who was killed at the battle of Rehoba, Mississippi, as a Confederate soldier, in the last battle in which his regiment participated; Richard, who was killed in the battle of Rebecca, Mississippi, as a Confederate soldier; Vinson, who was killed at Bentonville, South Carolina, while wearing the uniform of the Confederacy; Tandy, who was a Confederate cavalryman and died at Meridian, Mississippi, in 1886; Archie, who lives at Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Reuben V., of this review; and Joseph, a resident of Laurel, Mississippi.

+ 2 girls

John R. Watts was a son of William Hicks Watts, and his grandparents were Richard H. and Elizabeth (Townsend) Watts, who were of Scotch-Irish stock and of Colonial people of Georgia. William Hicks Watts and Jesse Asbury were both soldiers of the War of 1812, and their plantations were tilled by slave labor. The latter was the father of six children.

Reuben V. Watts' education was curtailed by the outbreak of the Civil war, in which all of his older brothers took an active part. At the age of sixteen he wished to go to a military school, but met with the objection of his father, who had seen enough of military life in the war between the states, in which he lost several sons, in addition to having had his slaves set free and his farm destroyed. Thus the youth was forced to rely upon himself for his education, and he continued to remain upon the home farm until his father's death. Upon coming to Texas he sought work on a farm at Marquez, and spent a year working for fifteen dollars a month in this line, but during the next year took a clerkship with Nelms & Manor, at Lovelady, and while there added to his education materially by practical experience. When he left the store he was appointed deputy sheriff, a position in which he served for three years, and in 1898 came to Lufkin and took a clerkship with the Angelina Trading Company, and thus secured another five years' experience, which went far toward completing a practical education. In 1904 he won the nomination for sheriff in a Democratic primary against four competitors and was elected in November. He has been reelected four times, with a gradually fading opposition, his majority once reaching 1,500 in a vote of 2,500 in the county. He succeeded Thomas C. Mantooth and began a vigorous campaign for the apprehension of old offenders and new. In the discharge of his duties Sheriff Watts has traveled the United States east and west, north and south, from the Lakes to the Gulf and from ocean to ocean. He has brought to the bar of the Angelina county court every man under indictment, and a number of old scores have been put in process of settlement by him which had almost faded from memory. The case of the Lightfoot brothers is one of the noted ones with which he dealt successfully. The brothers were burglars and dangerous and desperate men. They committed crimes in the county in 1903 and made good their escape—temporarily. When their hiding place was finally located by Sheriff Watts they were under the name of Mundays and were day and night convict guards at De Funiak Springs, Florida. They made it a practice to sleep with their guns, but on the occasion of their capture one of them was ill and without arms and the other was induced to give up his by a ruse of the captain of the camp, who told him that his brother was worse, and when he gave up his weapon he was promptly covered with it, and the ride to Texas with the big sheriff at once started. The boys were tried and convicted and given long prison terms.

The most noted case dealt with by Sheriff Watts, however, was the discovery and capture of Jesse Reynolds, who was a fugitive for twenty-nine years and charged with the murder of George Padgus. The crime was committed in 1882, and no sheriff had been able to secure a trace of Reynolds. Somehow, Sheriff Watts located him in the state of Florida and learned that he was living under the name of J. H. Brown. He likewise learned that Brown had joined the Masons and that the higher degrees of the order had been denied him when it had been rumored that he was a murderer, and found out that Brown was a successful merchant in that state and a prominent bank president. It was while traveling in Florida, enroute for the Lightfoot brothers, that Sheriff Watts chanced to meet a state detective, who, with Watts' description of Brown, caused him to be located and gave the Texas detective the tip.

When Sheriff Watts went to Gainesville, Florida, for his prisoner, he had never seen him, but his acquaintance with Reynolds' relatives made him familiar with the family resemblance, and when the several prisoners of the jail were lined up before him he at once "picked his man." The identification convinced Reynolds that a further denial of his name was useless and took the Texas sheriff behind a building to argue the point of his liberty. The most potent argument resorted to was the offer of $10,000 in cash, but the sheriff at that time was doing business for the state of Texas and accord-

Greene Co GA Will Book F p. 156 8 Aug 1831
Record - 24 Nov. 1831

Will of Jubal Watts. dec

Nancy Watts wife - negro girl Julia
1. Sarah Watts dau.
2. child Watts son/dau unborn when father died

Richard B. Watts brother.
Mary Watts sis
Martha Watts sis

David S. Watts
Cordeal N. Daniel } Executors

Henry C. Bragg
Daniel Bethune
Richard Asbury } witness -



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**"Many things are recorded
of the United States
Destroyer Squadron 23.
The one thing never recorded
of them
is that they took counsel
of their fears,
for they did not.
They were confident
in competence,
strong in faith,
and for them,
the bell never tolled
and it never will.
It pealed a clear signal
of their courage,
their conviction
and their dedication
even unto death.
And in pealing for them,
it peals also
for thee and for me."**

Ken Jones

# U.S.S. FOOTE
# DD-511
# LITTLE BEAVER SQUADRON
# DESRON-23

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

## BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## OCTOBER 10, 1999

**"No unit in the entire history of the United States Navy ever achieved such competence and such confidence in so short a time and in such magnificent measure as did the gallant squadron. Their victories in battle were great. Their victories in faith and dedication were greater."**

**Ken Jones**

# Memorial Service

# BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

October 10, 1999

| | |
|---|---|
| Invocation | Edgar Forrest |
| Pledge of Allegiance | Wilbur V. Rogers |
| Reading of the Little Beaver Squadron Quotation (back page) | Wilbur V. Rogers |
| Roll Call of Names With | Monte Moncrief |
| Ringing of the Bells | Wilbur V. Rogers |
| Benediction | Edgar Forrest |

IN MEMORIUM

TO THE MEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES DURING
WORLD WAR II WHILE SERVING THEIR COUNTRY
ABOARD THIS SHIP, WE HUMBLY DEDICATE
THIS MEMORIAL SERVICE.

October 10, 1999
Boston, Massachusetts

USS FOOTE (DD-511)

DENNIS E. BLEASDALE
WILLIAM C. BLOUGOURAS
AAEON J. BLUE
ROBERT J. BUSH
HAROLD E. COOPER
JAMES CONSTANTINI
PHILLIP J. COLOTTA
CHARLES DRAGOO
PETER J. GAIDIS
ALFRED W. GRANT
JOHN HENKLE
RAYMOND A. JONES
EDMUND K. LAMBERT
EUGENE H. LONG
HARVARD A. MIX
THEODORE J. O'DELL
MAX TUDOR
GEORGE E. WATSON
ALTON J. WATTS
ORLANDEITH C. WHEATLEY

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# FOOTE NOTES

Volume VI, No. 4 USS FOOTE (DD-511) ASSOCIATION 1 October 1998

## A GREAT PLACE TO MEET!

**BRANSON, MO 1998**

Don't miss this one-of-a-kind experience - Branson is a unique blend of neon and nature where big-time performers provide entertainment amidst the relaxing beauty of one of America's most scenic lakeside destinations. An abundance of wholesome, family-oriented entertainment with varied attractions and activities. One of the safest areas in America - Branson is a one day's drive from half the U.S. population - making the area the convenient, affordable and increasingly popular vacation choice for more than 5-million visitors each year.

Branson resounds with the best of American music - it has more of it than anywhere else in the world. It's truly America's Live Entertainment Capital, and among its residents are some of the biggest names in contemporary music, country, pop, gospel, bluegrass, western, rock 'n' roll, classical and jazz - Branson has it all.

One of the great things about Branson's theaters - you can begin in early morning and catch shows all day long and into the night. There are breakfast shows, morning shows, lunch shows, matinees, dinner theaters and evening shows. More than 50,000 people can see a Branson show at any given time. That's far more seating than Broadway.

Silver Dollar City is the area's single largest attraction with its 1890s theme park, themed rides, live entertainment and more than 100 resident crafters and artisans.

Another unique taste of history from the 1950s - when Silver Zephyr railroad cars toured the nation. If you are a railroad fan you may enjoy a tour of the mountains on these luxurious restored passenger cars operated by Branson Scenic Railway.

About 60-miles south of Branson is the intriguing Eureka Springs, Arkansas. It's a quirky town of antique architecture perched on rocky outcrops and twisty narrow roads lined with shops. It's the home of "The Great Passion Play" and other music shows.

Shopping always seems to factor into these reunions and for those who like malls there is something for you. Three huge factory outlet shopping centers have made Branson a "top ten" outlet shopping destination in America.

Well, I think it is pretty obvious you'll run out of time before you run out of choices.

Now, if you have not sent your Green Sheet, Registration/Payment Form to **Jerry Lasley** you have missed the two shows scheduled for the reunion to attend as a group. However, it's not too late to register for the reunion October 1 - 5, 1998 at the **Kimberling Inn Resort**. To accommodate those who have visited the Branson area several times before and do not choose to go with our group to the two shows selected or if you simply prefer to make your own arrangements (can be done at the Inn) for other shows or attend no shows at all, Jerry has determined a price (without shows) of $60/person. This includes everything except the two shows - the Registration, Hospitality Room (run by the Doss Clan), Saturday Night Banquet with Entertainment, Monday Morning Breakfast, Souvenir Pins, Special Memorial Gift, etc. Just use the same Green Registration Form previously sent to you and mail a check for $60/person to **Jerry Lasley, 11023 Stanley Curve, Bloomington, Minnesota 55437.** Don't forget to indicate the number in your party and include individual names for Name Tag purposes. Remember to make your Banquet dinner choices - Beef, Chicken or Salmon. If you have any questions call **Jerry** at **612-888-3485.**

Remember, your room reservations should be made directly with the **KIMBERLING INN RESORT** by calling **Toll Free 1-800-833-5556.** Be sure to mention you are with the "FOOTE REUNION" and ask for a "CONFIRMATION NUMBER". Our room rate is **$59.50** per night plus tax - with occupancy up to four - all standard rooms have two double beds. The FOOTE room rate will apply if you arrive early or stay after the reunion. All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card or send one day's rental as a deposit. There will be a full refund of your room deposit if you cancel 72-hours prior to the arrival time. If you have any special room requirements (ie ground floor, disabled or non-smoking)

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make your request when you call for reservation. After September 1st rooms will be on a space available basis only.

## A special reunion

**Jerry** has talked to the **Very Reverend Ernest Blougouras** and everything is still firm on his attendance. You will recall that **Georgia Tuttle** located Father Ernest about 1½-years ago in her effort to find some of the next-of-kin to those killed on the FOOTE. Father Ernest is the brother of **William C. Blougouras** and he has very graciously agreed to speak at our Memorial Service on top of Dreamcatcher Mountain. We are very grateful to Father Ernest and look forward to meeting him at the reunion.

History tells us that in October in Southwest Missouri we can expect the temperature lows to be 41°-52°F and the highs 64°-75°F with an average of about 58°F. Normal rainfall for the month averages 3.58-inches. Confortable, casual clothing and footwear are recommended.

Don't forget the next critical date - **September 1, 1998** the date to have your room reservations made. See you at the SIXTEENTH USS FOOTE REUNION, **October 1 - 5,** at the **Kimberling Inn Resort** on **Table Rock Lake** just outside **Branson, MO.** Be there.

**FOOTE NOTES**
**Editor:**
Wilbur V. Rogers
12243 Brookshire Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

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**USS FOOTE DD-511 ASSOCIATION**

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## REUNION 2000 (Y2K)

At the Breakfast/Business Meeting this year we will ask for a volunteer (preferable two to work together or you can get Armed Services Reunion, Inc.) to host the first FOOTE reunion in the new millennium. If you would like to be our host in the year 2000 come to Branson prepared to give the group a brief discription of what your area has to offer and what you have planned. If there are volunteers from two areas - the group will vote to see which proposal is accepted.

## "JUST A PIECE OF CLOTH"

A few years ago, I was in my car listening to a radio call-in talk show and the topic of conversation was whether it was proper for people to burn the American flag in protest or if it was a protected individual freedom. During the talk show, someone called in and said they didn't understand what all the controversy was over "just a piece of cloth". The image struck me immediately of the Marines on Iwo Jima with their faces down in the volcanic ash and looking up at Mount Suribachi to see the flag being raised. Surely, they didn't consider it to be just a piece of cloth.

When I arrived home that evening, I put the following thoughts down on paper and I believe that this expresses my beliefs and my feelings of who I am and the love I have for this country.

### "JUST A PIECE OF CLOTH"

I was with Colonel Parker and the Minutemen at Lexington and Concord to hear "The Shot Heard 'Round The World" that began the American Revolution. I was with General Washington when he crossed the Delaware and suffered with his men in the harsh winter at Valley Forge.

**Did they fight & die for just a piece of cloth?**

I was with Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys at Ticonderoga and with Washington, Hancock, and the Marquis de Lafayette to accept surrender terms at Yorktown with the British playing that old European tune "The World Turned Upside Down".

**Did they fight & die for just a piece of cloth?**

I was with Andrew Jackson and Jean Laffite at the Battle of New Orleans in 1812. I was with Bowie, Crockett, and Travis at the Alamo.

**Did they fight & die for just a piece of cloth?**

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I was with Lee and Longstreet and all the Boys in Gray at Gettysburg. And, I was with all the Boys in Blue with General Mead and Colonel Chamberlin on Little Round Top. I was with Grant in the Wilderness and at Vicksburg. I was with both the Blue and the Gray when our country was healed at Appomattox.

**Did they fight & die for just a piece of cloth?**

I was with Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders on San Juan Hill and with Admiral Dewey and the Great White Fleet in Manila Bay. I was with the Doughboys in World War I, the "War To End All Wars". And now I lie burried in Flanders Field.

**Did they fight & die for just a piece of cloth?**

I was with Admiral Isaac Kidd aboard ARIZONA that fateful Sunday morning in 1941. I was with the infantry that landed on beaches so far away named Omaha, Juno, Utah, Sword, and Gold.

**Did they fight & die for just a piece of cloth?**

I was with General Wainwright on Corregidor. I was with Admiral Fletcher in the Battle of the Coral Sea. I was aboard ENTERPRISE, HORNET, and YORKTOWN at Midway.

**Did they fight & die for just a piece of cloth?**

I fought at Kwajalein, the Battle of Leyte Gulf, at Bloody Tarawa, Guadalcanal, and Iwo Jima and served on destroyers on picket duty off Okinawa.

**Did they fight & die for just a piece of cloth?**

I flew Saber jets in MIG Alley in North Korea and I was with the Marines at Chason Reservoir. I was with the Navy at Inchon Harbor and fought on hills and ridges called Bloody, Heartbreak, Old Baldy, and Porkchop.

**Did they fight & die for just a piece of cloth?**

I flew bombing missions over Hanoi and was on Rat Patrol in the Mekong Delta. I was with the Navy on Yankee Station in the Tonkin Gulf. I flew night missions over Baghdad and was with the battalions in Desert Storm.

**Did they fight & die for just a piece of cloth?**

Freedom is not free. It has a price and it has been paid many times by many people. I am a product of my past. I am what you have made me. I am an American and I am free. (By: H. Maury Drummond, Executive Director, Louisiana Naval War Memorial, USS KIDD DD-661.)

**ONE OF THE GREATEST PLEASURES OF GROWING OLD IS THE FREEDOM WE ENJOY FROM LIFE INSURANCE SALESMEN.**

## DAYS IN THE LIFE OF THE FOOTE

August 1, 1945 At 1535 Typhoon Plan X-Ray is ordered for all ships in the area. We secured from our patrol station at 1543 and proceeded to Ie Shima - lashing everything down topside and generally getting the ship ready for a Typhoon expected sometime tomorrow.

We reported to CTU 95.5.3, Captain J. M. Kennaday, USN, ComTranDiv-105 for escort assignment during the Typhoon retirement plan. The FOOTE took station at 1820 on the starboard bow of the formation which is composed of one AVP (Seaplane Tender), one AOG (Gasoline Tanker), one LST (Landing Ship Tank), and five cargo-type ships. The screen is composed of USS FARENHOLT DD-491 (CDS-12), USS STRONG DD-467, USS FOOTE DD-511, USS HOPPING APD-51, and USS SIMS DD-409. The convoy is steaming various courses in a general southerly direction.

It is beginning to rain and get pretty rough about sundown - winds are picking up - about a Force-4 on the Beaufort Scale. Force-4 is moderately strong winds with waves becoming longer with white caps. It's going to be a long night.

August 2, 1945 "Rough" describes it pretty well - everything and everyone is wet. The menu is bread and Spam with some other sliced meats, cheeses and spreads thrown in for variety. We are taking green water over the Bridge - back to the old routine of about two weeks ago. Over one wave and through two - that's a Destroyer for you. The Typhoon must be around Forec-8 - we are getting some sick sailors - the churned foam is blown in definite streaks with the wind. Wind velocity is over 100-MPH. The sea is taking on a white appearance. It's not official but the pitch must be 55-feet and the roll at least 45°. Another night that will not end - all the top-side watches have long since been secured. Everyone is awake - who could sleep in this?

August 3, 1945 It's a great deal better today - the sea has flattened out considerably and the wind has diminished. At 1615 we head for Ie Shima shepherding our collage of ships at about 10-knots. On arrival we are relieved of screen duty and ordered to proceed to Kerama Retto to resume the patrol duties that were interrupted by the Typhoon Plan. On station

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and commenced patrolling at 2042. The Radio Shack news dispatches said 12 more Japanese cities, with a population of approximately 1.5-million people, have been warned they will be destroyed by fire bombs following similar warnings to 10 other cities and subsequent B-29 bombings this past week. Do you think the Japs would warn us?

August 4, 1945 Nothing but morning G.Q. and daily routine - no bogies on radar. At 1616 we are directed to fuel underway from the USS MILLICOMA AO-73 - completed fueling at 1845 and took station on the starboard bow of the MILLICOMA en-route to Hagushi Anchorage. Dropped the hook at 2020.

It has been announced that General Douglas MacArthur has assumed control of the Japan mainland operation. Japanese radio says they expect 800,000 Allied Troups to invade soon, but it would repel an invasion with suicide pilots.

We had a routine evening G.Q. and one of the prettiest sunsets in a long, long time.

August 5, 1945 We went to G.Q. at 0215 - apparently reconnaissance - very high. Firing came pretty close to us but the target was too distant for us to open fire. We're still running errands - in company with the USS FRANK E. EVANS DD-754 and USS McCOY REYNOLDS DE-440, we put out with a convoy about 1300 - escorted them clear of the island then returned to Buckner Bay at sundown and dropped the hook in Anchorage L-30 at 1920.

We receive word that near the Philippines U.S. Navy personnel have boarded a Japanese Hospital Ship with clear Red Cross markings. Aboard they found 1,500 Japanese Soldiers with no wounds under their bandages and huge stores of guns and ammunition.

August 6, 1945 We received orders at 0953 to sortie with the USS LA GRANGE APA-124 at Chinu Wan and escort her to Buckner Bay. Commenced escorting the LA GRANGE at 1246 and arrived at Buckner Bay at 1408.

An incredible announcement has just been made by President Truman from the Cruiser USS AUGUSTA CA-31 - the world's first atomic bomb was dropped today on the Japanese city of Hiroshima by a single B-29 bomber. This bomb is reported to equal over 20,000 tons of TNT - a new age of distruction has been ushered in.

An impenetrable cloud of dust over Hiroshima has thus far prevented aerial photos to determine the degree of distruction caused by this bomb estimated to weigh only 400#.

President Truman's solemn announcement said that since the Japenese refused the ultimatum to surrender on July 26th, the atomic bomb was used to spare the population a rain of destruction never before seen.

Overseas Radio is telling the Japanese what has been dropped on Hiroshima in hopes they will surrender. Secretary of War, Stimson, says the bomb will be a tremendous help in ending the war.

It was also announced that the first test of this new atom bomb occurred on July 16th near Alamagordo, New Mexico. The bomb vaporized an immense steel tower and sent a mushroom cloud 40,000-feet high. The two billion dollar atomic project has involved almost 100,000 people in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; 17,000 in Richland, Washington and 7,000 in the new town of Los Alamos in New Mexico.

At first it is hard to conceive what has happened, but after a while we all believe it. Everywhere you go on the ship the talk is the same - what will the outcome be of this new atomic bomb? A few - a very few - are concerned with its future threat to civilization, but most just try to convince themselves the war will be over in a matter of days.

August 7, 1945 All hands are standing by expecting to handle stores for most of the day. There is a steady flow of information from the Radio Shack. In the shortest press conference on record, President Truman announced that Russia has declared war on Japan. Thirty-five nations are now at war with the Japanese.

Reconnaissance photos of yesterday's atom bomb raid on Hiroshima shows that 60% of the city was wiped out. The pilot of the B-29 that dropped the bomb was Colonel Paul Tibbets and he named his plane ENOLA GAY, after his 57-year old mother. The Bombardier way Major Thomas Ferebee. The crew was joined by Captain William Parsons, ordnance designer of the 400# bomb.

General Carl Spaatz announced that a B-29 bomber atomic fleet is ready to go when given the order.

Hardly noticed in the news today - Alfred P. Sloan, President of General Motors and his Vice President of Research, Dr. Charles F. Kettering, have funded $4-million to start the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research in New York City.

August 8, 1945 We got underway at 1332 and took on fuel from the USS NIOBRARA AO-72 and then it was over to Hagushi Anchorage and

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report to CTU 95.5.6. We went to G.Q. in the evening when enemy aircraft approached the area - they did not close - turned away or shot down by the C.A.P. (Combat Air Patrol).

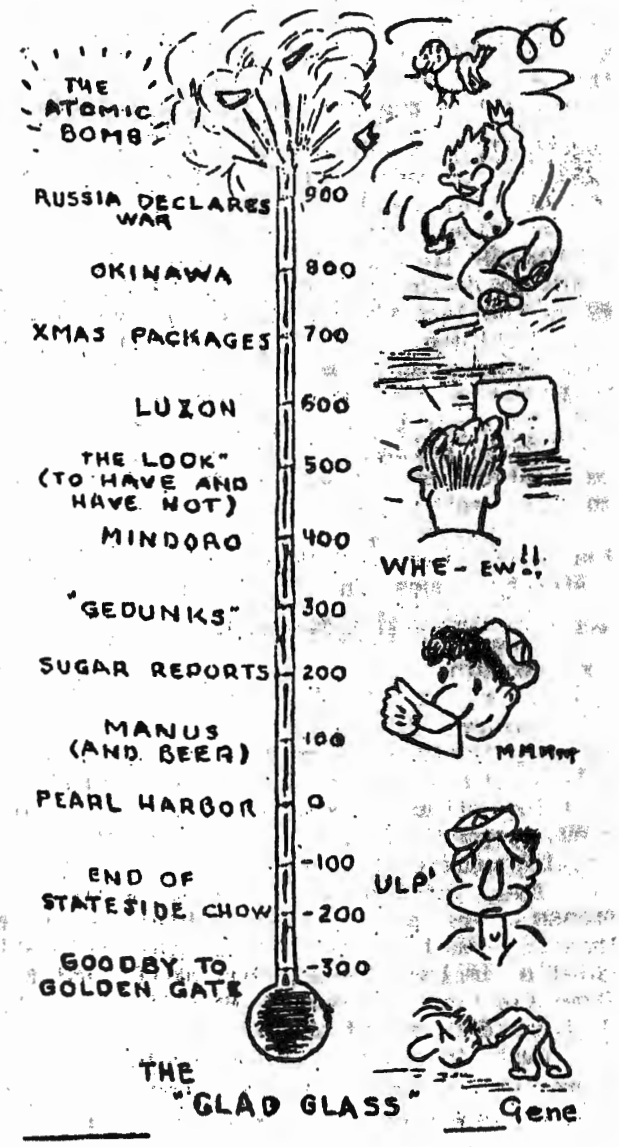
Japanese radio reported today that nearly every citizen was killed at Hiroshima. Another 385 B-29s bombed Tokyo arsenals today as the Third Fleet hit Northern Honshu. What will it take?

August 9, 1945 Today the United States dropped its second atom bomb on the city of Nagasaki and President Truman went on national radio and threatened Japan with atomic obliteration if they don't surrender. B-29s have dropped millions of leaflets over Japan telling about the atomic bomb with promise of more to come. Things are happening pretty fast now.

August 10, 1945 Japan has offered to surrender, via Switzerland, according to the Potsdam surrender ultimatum, with a request for clarification on the status of Emperor Hirohito. The Demei News Service says the Japanese Cabinet was unanimous in its vote. The Japanese government has filed a protest with the U.S. government on the use of a weapon as inhuman as the atomic bomb. Talk to the survivors of the Bataan Death March if they want to talk "inhumane".

It seems that the general opinion in the crew is "let them keep their Emperor" - farm him out and let's go home. At first everyone looked at one another in disbelief - is this for real - and, as it soaked in a spontaneous shout here and there could be heard. Suddenly - everyone was running around looking for someone to talk to - too excited to sit still - kidding - shouting - slaps on the back - asking questions, never waiting for an answer - running off again in the middle of a sentence.

A wild, fantastic, incredible celebration was touched off on the beach, which from our position two miles offshore, was a sight to behold - even if you couldn't believe it. Every Gun Station on the island must be firing - stitching the low clouds with tracers and throwing flak in every direction. "FLASH RED" was called from the beach, but no one pays any attention. Captain McElwain called G.Q. - so many shells were bursting over us there was a mad scramble topside for helments and cover. Strict orders were given to all ships that no firing would be tolerated, and almost immediately, a P.T. Boat tied up astern of the FOOTE began firing a 50-calibre. The Bridge started screaming and finally that particular burst of exuberance was quieted - but, not so on the beach. Three ships have reported casualties from falling shrapnel - we could see a bunch of guys on the beach rolling gasoline drums to one point and lighting them off, the flames flaring up 60 feet or more - a flock of "fly-boys" were hollering over the radio for somebody to clear the area around the airstrip, they were running out of gas and needed to land - and, more than 50 searchlights were spinning around, probing the skies like the world's biggest premier. Lots of flares were thrown up - and fires of all kinds could be seen all over the island - those along the watersedge bringing the ships into almost daylight prominence.



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The horns, sirens, blasting charges, big guns, little guns, laced with the sharp staccato Ack-Ack of the anti-aircraft batteries close by blended into a concatenation of sound that reached us as a continual roar, not realizing how loud until it began to die out. If there were any Japs around it would have scared the hell out of them.

It began to rain and there were orders - more orders - repeated orders, but nothing availed for almost an hour and a half when the greatest celebration of all time began to spend itself.

We secured from G.Q. about midnight and word was passed to all hands in the area - pointing out the news report was unofficial - hostilities had not ceased - we were still at war - etc. etc. - the old conservative wet blanket, but hope springs eternal and the end - the blessed end - is in sight. There will be precious little sleep this night.

August 11, 1945 The FOOTE is underway at 0253 in company with USS CHARLES AUSBURNE DD-570 (OTC) and USS JOHN A. BOLE DD-755 (New Sumner Class Destroyer) to relieve the USS CUNNINGHAM DD-752, USS EVANS DD-552 and USS ERWIN DD-794 on R.P. #9 - Radar Picket Station #9 is the last of the original picket stations around Okinawa. LCS-76 and LCS-78 are assigned this station as support craft (Pall Bearers). Boy! What a come down - from celebrating the end of the war to the last R.P. Station.

Word reaches us that the surrender celebration at Okinawa last night resulted in six deaths and thirty injured - what a waste. A news release from Washington reports that there were 550 Navy and Army casualties yesterday - guess the war is not over.

Communications with the Japanese is time consuming and takes nine steps plus coding and decoding through the Swiss Legation in Washington then on to Berne, Switzerland to the Japanese Legation there and then on to Tokyo. President Truman is irked at Japanese delays and has threatened them with overwhelming attacks and more atom bombs unless they respond promptly - **YES** or **NO** to the Potsdam surrender ultimatum.

That got their attention - **YES, YES PLEASE.** The Allies have decided to let the Emperor remain, subject to the occupation chief's implementation, but will insist on free elections. General MacArthur has been designated to accept the surrender.

Just in case - we go to G.Q. for two hours at sundown - those Japs are sneaky devils. Everything is very calm and peaceful - good for lots of day-dreaming. Is it just the calm before the storm - or is it real???

August 12, 1945 Repeated warnings of no relaxing of vigilance. Most of the time off watch is spent hanging around the radio for information - any information. "Scuttle Butt" is rampant. Today the Radio Shack posted a copy of the text of our stipulations to Japan. G.Q. again at 2110 - appeared to be friendly.

At 2300 we received CTF-95 secret dispatch #120605 addressed to CTG-95.5 which directs CTG to discontinue and vacate Radar Picket Station #9 this date. At 2313 R.P. #9 is secured. The USS FOOTE has the distinction of serving on and securing the last Picket Station in the Okinawa area. Set course for Hagushi Anchorage.

**THIS & THAT**

***ARTS & CRAFTS***

Don't forget that special item you have been thinking about for the raffle at this reunion. If you are not handy with your hands or creative just pick an item you are willing to part with that is interesting, old, new or unique.

This is a fun event and helps keep our Treasury healthy. Get it made or set it aside, but don't forget to bring it to Kimberling Inn Resort.

**BOSTON, MA 1990**

It's back to where the USS FOOTE was commissioned on 22 December 1942 - BOSTON. **Marie Chalmers** will give a report on what she has planned for the group in 1999. Approximately 70% of the crew lived within 150-miles of Boston, so we should have a good attendance.

**MEMBERSHIP**

At press time 80.0% of the USS FOOTE ASSOCIATION members were in good standing. That is about what it has been running in past years. The great support that your dues and donations provide allows us to have the best Destroyer Reunion Association in the country. With your support we have been able to maintain the FOOTE NOTES on a quarterly

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basis and most important, keep those former shipmates who are shut-ins or can not travel in touch. Our hearty thanks for your support.

**LITTLE BEAVER REUNIONS**

USS CHARLES AUSBURNE DD-570
Baton Rouge, LA
Holiday Inn East
Oct. 18 - 21, 1998

USS CLAXTON DD-571
Seattle, WA
Double Tree SeaTac
Sept. 9 - 12, 1999

USS CONVERSE DD-509
Fort Worth, TX
Green Oaks Hotel
Oct. 7 - 10, 1998

USS DYSON DD-572
Durango, CO
Double Tree Hotel
Oct. 14 - 17, 1998

USS FOOTE DD-511
Branson, MO
Kimberling Inn Resort
Oct. 1 - 5, 1998

USS STANLY DD-478
Pensacola, FL
Holiday Inn Bay Breeze
Oct. 14 - 18, 1998

USS THATCHER DD-514
San Diego, CA
Quality Inn
Sept. 16 - 19, 1998

If any of the "Little Beavers" are having a reunion in your area, drop by their Hospitality Room and introduce yourself, they will be glad to see you.

**CHECK ON THE WEB**

For those of you who have computers you may enjoy visiting the web site:

http://www.cds23navy.mil/

It has ship histories of the original "Little Beavers" and even visits ships of the modern day DesRon-23.

**USS FOOTE CAPS**

**Teddy Mottola**, our Treasurer, has some USS FOOTE CAPS that he plans to bring to the reunion this year. He sells them for what it cost to have them made. If you don't have a cap or want to replace yours - see Teddy at the reunion.

**NEWS SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1945**

The Nagasaki atomic bomb made the bomb dropped on Hiroshima obsolete says Princeton Professor Henry Smythe. He said its power to destroy was heightened by the mid-air explosion.

The world's mightest aircraft carrier, the USS MIDWAY, is about to be launched. Its flight deck is the length of three football fields.

It's reported that up to 5-million workers may be out of a job when war production ends. Further it is expected 5-million servicemen will be looking for work within the year.

In the stock market, war issues faded today after news of the surrender as peace shares advanced. The Dow Jones closed off less than a point at 165.14.

Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, proposes Alaska become the 49th state.

The 17-story Hotel Ansonia on 74th Street, New York City has sold for $2.5-million.

Byron Nelson leads Herman Barron and Sam Snead at the Spring Lake, New Jersey golf tournament. The winning pro gets $1,500.

**Donald Siders** is seriously ill and is being cared for at home. Our thoughts and prayers are with Don and Mary.

**Jim Lord** is home convalescing from a battle with E.Coli or whatever ailment that dropped him - certainly, it was serious enough - even though the doctors were not able to nail it down for certain. He is home getting his share of TLC from Gloria and trying to stay away from those E.Coli burgers. Although he is doing well they will not be at the reunion this year.

Word reaches me that **Ed** and **Mary Mazepa** are about to weasel out of attending the

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the reunion in Missouri this year. Did Ed hear there may be an "off year" election?

**Joe Ney's** wife, **Helen**, passed away on June 21, 1998 after a lengthy illness. We extend the sympathy of the entire FOOTE group to the Ney family. Ted Mottola and Bill Patsos went to the wake.

**Russel T. Winsett** has moved - his new address is 906 Atlantic Ave., N. Wildwood, NJ 08260. You will recall that Russel's wife, Anne, passed away on 1-26-95 while they were down in Florida.

For the second year **Jerry Lasley** is acting in the production of a theater group in his area. This year they have produced a musical/comedy/variety show titled "SHUFFLE OFF THE BUFFALO, BILL". As I understand the plot it's a story about a small 19th century town during a drought and their attempt to hire a "rain maker". The play is laced with corny stories about farmers and cowboys mixed in with chorale and solo numbers from Broadway productions - like "Annie Get Your Gun", "Paint Your Wagon", "Oklahoma", etc. Jerry plays three parts (guess they are short on actors) - Mike, Wally and Tex. And, he not only has lines - he sings. It never ceases to amaze me the talent we have in our group.

**John Duke** had a heart attack on May 7th and spent a couple of weeks in the hospital. They did an angioplasty and since have given him a stress test. The results were good and John is convalescing at home. He and **Teresa** thought it best if they skipped this year's reunion.

In a brief note to Jerry Lasley, **Victor Smith** said he was involved in an automobile accident and suffered a broken neck. He is getting along pretty well at this point, but can not make the reunion.

**Bea Bocca** writes that she will be in Sicily discovering her roots during this year's reunion, but hopes to be in Boston. Hope she doesn't find a "root canal" is needed.

After a lengthy illness **Richard A. Muterspaugh** passed away on Memorial Day. He was with one of his sons down in Texas at the end. Everyone will recall that Dick's wife, Margery, passed away last year after being ill for several years.

I called **Anne Meyer** and she told me **Sylvan** had just gotten home after a close call - major stomach surgery and a three week hospital stay. He is now going through a lengthy convalescence. Looks like this year is out for them. Take care Sylvan and we will plan on seeing you in Boston.

**Oris Bennett** canceled plans for he and **Christina** to attend the reunion this year. Christina has had some medical problems and Oris thought it best to skip this year.

**Max Flynt** called on June 30th and said he and **Evelyn** would have to cancel their plans to attend the reunion this year. Evelyn has suffered a stroke and is in an assisted care facility.

**Marie Connolly** tells me that they have a wedding that will conflict with this year's reunion. **John** doesn't like it too much - he is afraid he'll lose his job at the Sunday night raffle.

After a long absence, **Les** and **Georgia Pinnell** plan to be at this year's reunion. Living in Union, Missouri, they have been to Branson many times - sounds like a good source of information.

**Marian Allen** caught a good case of the shingles from that necklace she bought in Mexico at last year's reunion. Not only did she get the shingles, but her neck is still green - lots of side effects from those "gold" Mexican necklaces.

Bad luck has befallen **Ruth Chadwick** and taken her discretionary funds that she planned to spend for this year's reunion trip. The transmission went out in her car and we all know what those things cost. Don't give up, Ruth.

I talked to **John Kearns** and he said they would not be at the reunion in Branson. Circumstances preclude the trip this year.

# TAPS

**Richard A. Muterspaugh----------5-25-98**

**USS FOOTE LIVED 3 YEARS 3 MONTHS & 27 DAYS....**

## SOLOMONS OPERATIONS — August 7, 1942 - November 2, 1943

**1942**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. | 7 | U.S. 1st Marines land on Guadalcanal and across the sound on Tulagi and Gavatu |
| | 8-9 | Battle of Savo Island— U.S. cruisers *Astoria, Quincy, Vincennes*, HMAS Canberra & 1 DD sunk in night action |
| | 17 | Henderson Field on Guadalcanal fully operational for Marine aviators |
| | 20-21 | Battle of the Tenaru River— Marines repulse first Japanese counterattack |
| | 23-25 | Battle of Eastern Solomons. *Saratoga* pilots sink light carrier *Ryujo*; CV *Enterprise* damaged, retires to Pearl for repairs; pilots and planes left at Guadalcanal |
| | 31 | *Saratoga* torpedoed by Jap sub; out of action for 3 months; torpedo pilots & planes to Guadalcanal. |
| Sept. | 1 | Seabees (Navy construction battalion) arrive in Guadalcanal |
| | 5 | Off Lunga Point, Japs sink 2 U.S. destroyer transports in night action |
| | 12-15 | Battle of Bloody Ridge. Marines inflict heavy losses on Japanese |
| | 15 | USS *Wasp* (CV-7) sunk off eastern Solomons by Japanese submarine |
| | 23-Oct 9 | Battles along Matanikau River. "Edson's Raiders" soundly defeat Japs moving to recapture Henderson Field |
| | Oct-Dec | "Washing-Machine Charlie" & "Louie the Louse" make daily midnight runs to bomb Marines on Guadalcanal |
| Oct. | 11-12 | Battle of Cape Esperance (2nd Battle of Savo). U.S. cruisers *San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Boise, Helena* & 5 DDs repulse Japanese convoy to Guadalcanal. DD *Duncan* sunk |
| | 22-26 | Battle for Henderson Field — 22,000 Japanese soldiers attack and suffer heavy losses |
| | 26-27 | Battle off Santa Cruz Island— Jap fleet of 4 CV, 4 BB, 14 CA & CL, 44 DD move to recapture Henderson Field; met by U.S. force of 2 CV, 1 BB, 6 CL, 14 DD. Two Jap CV and 1 CA damaged. U.S. carriers *Hornet* sunk and *Enterprise* damaged; DD *Porter* sunk. The enemy advance to Guadalcanal stopped |
| Nov. | 12-13 | Naval Battle of Guadalcanal (3rd Battle of Savo)— Japanese force repulsed in night & day actions. U.S. loses cruisers *Juneau, Atlanta;* DDs *Walke, Benham, Preston, Barton, Monssen, Laffey & Cushman;* CA *San Francisco* & BB *South Dakota* sustain heavy damage; DD *Sterett* hit by 11 shells. Japs lose 2 BB, 4 DD. Marine airmen sink 6 Jap DD transports; artillery sink 4 more second day. |
| | 30 | Battle of Tassafaronga— CA *Northampton* sunk; CAs *Minneapolis, New Orleans, Pensacola* badly damaged |
| Dec. | 11 | U.S. torpedo boats attack 10 DDs off Guadalcanal, sinking 1; 1 U.S. PT boat lost |

**1943**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jan. | 29-30 | Battle of Rennell Island— U.S. heavy cruiser *Chicago* sunk |
| Feb. | 1-8 | Japanese evacuate 11,706 soldiers from Guadalcanal (Operation "KE") |
| | 9 | Guadalcanal secured. Of 36,000 Japanese troops, 14,800 killed, 9,000 die of disease, 1,000 captured. Jap losses: 2 BB, 3 CA, 11 DD, 6 SS. U.S. Marine losses: 1,600 killed and 4,200 wounded; Navy losses: 2 CV, 6 CA, 2 CL, 14 DD. |
| | | ***The tide in the Pacific War turns in favor of the United States.*** |
| | 24 | Russell Island (30 mi. NW of Guadalcanal) taken. No resistance; air strip built |
| Mar.- Apr. | | New U.S. planes arrive — F6F & F4U fighters; B-24 bombers ("Liberator") |
| Mar. | 6 | Two Japanese DDs sunk in night action in Vila Gulf, Kolombangara |
| June | 30 | Campaign for New Georgia begins. Rendova occupied; Munda airfield finally taken Aug. 5 |
| July | 6 | Battle of Kula Gulf— Japanese DD transports landing troops on Kolombangara intercepted in night action. U.S. loses cruiser *Helena;* Two enemy DD sunk |
| | 13 | Battle of Kolombangara— Night battle. U.S. lose DD *Gwin*, CLs *Honolulu & St. Louis* badly damaged; Japs lose 1 CL |
| Aug | 1-2 | Fifteen U.S. PT boats intercept 4 Japanese DD off Kolombangara. PT 109, commanded by Lt. John F. Kennedy, rammed and sunk |
| | 6-7 | Battle of Vella Gulf— DDs *Dunlap, Craven, Maury, Lang, Sterett, & Stack* sink 3 Japanese DD transports in night action |
| Oct. | 6-7 | Battle of Vella Lavella— Last engagement in central Solomons. Japanese evacuate troops on Vella Lavella. Each side loses one DD |
| | 27 | Marines land on Treasury Islands. Secured Nov. 6. |
| Nov. | 1 | Marines land at Cape Torokina, Empress Augusta Bay on Bougainville |
| | 2 | Battle of Empress Augusta Bay— U.S. fleet of 4 CLs and 8 DDs encounter enemy force of 2 CAs, 2 CLs, and 6 DDs. Two Jap ships sunk; U.S. lose none. |
| | | ***U.S. gains control of entire Solomons chain*** |

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BB = Battleship; CA = Heavy Cruiser; CL = Light Cruiser; CV = Aircraft Carrier; DD = Destroyer; SS = Submarine

[R.B. Morland, comp.]

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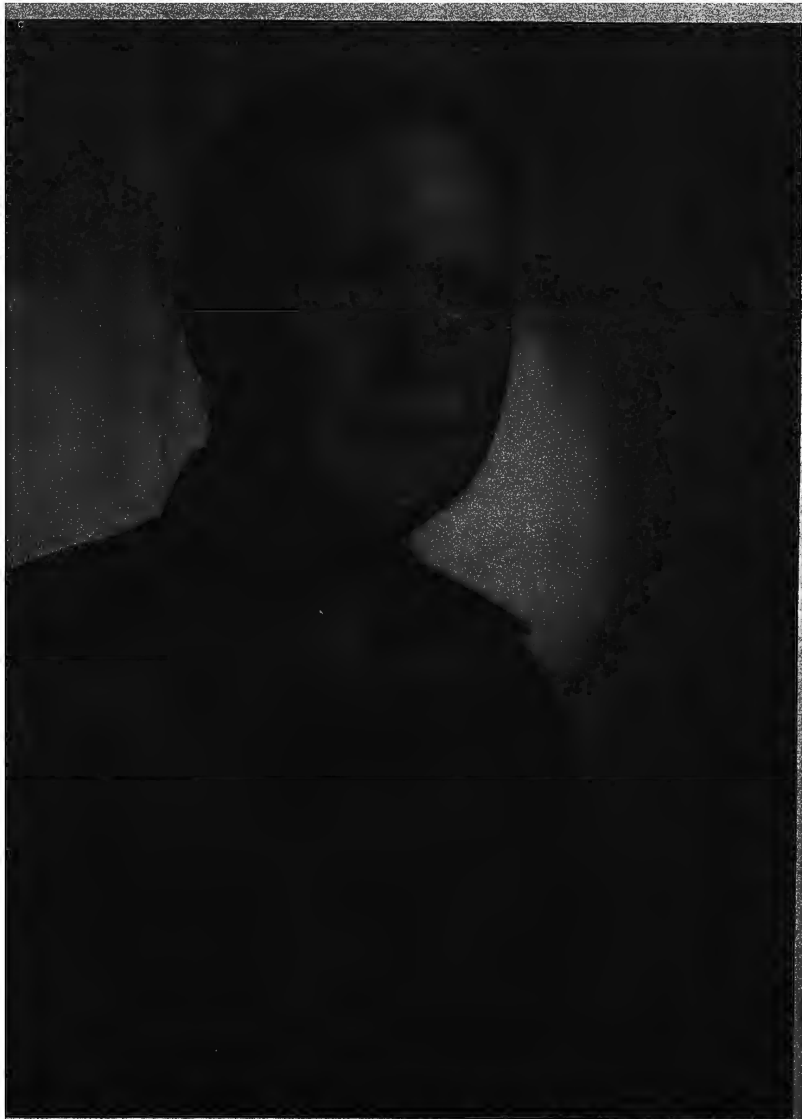

*Rear Admiral Theodore S. Wilkinson* USN
Commander Amphibious Force, South Pacific

HISTORY OF UNITED STATES NAVAL OPERATIONS IN WORLD WAR II
*VOLUME VI*

# Breaking the Bismarcks Barrier

## 22 *July* 1942–1 *May* 1944

BY SAMUEL ELIOT MORISON

*With Illustrations*

*An Atlantic Monthly Press Book*

LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY · BOSTON
1950

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ner."[22] Some 14,000 men and 6200 tons of supplies had been put ashore in eight hours' working time.

With night coming on, our fighter cover withdrew and the ships, juiciest targets the enemy had ever seen so near to his main base, lay open to air attack. In addition, strong Japanese surface forces known to be in Rabaul might attack under cover of darkness. It was imperative that all ships withdraw for the night. Accordingly, at 1800, Admiral Wilkinson ordered all twelve transports under way, and Commodore Reifsnider led them safely out through the difficult channel by which he had approached. The four partially unladen ships contained vital stores. Wilkinson, convinced by General Vandegrift that the immediate need justified their exposure to air attack next day, detached them from the main force at midnight and sent them back to Empress Augusta Bay under the Commodore in *Hunter Liggett*.

A scout plane then reported the sortie of Admiral Omori's cruiser force from Rabaul. Wilkinson therefore ordered Reifsnider to reverse course and resume retirement until further orders. Soon the glad news came over the radio, first of Merrill's interception of the enemy, and then of his victory. Reifsnider could return to Torokina.

The Marines ashore, after a supper of K rations, passed a damp, uncomfortable and uneasy night, watching flashes of light over the western horizon which told them that a naval battle was in progress.

[22] Endorsement on Commo. Reifsnider's Report. The air score, in comparison with that of the landing at Rendova 5 months before, was equally impressive. The Japanese made 5 major attacks on that occasion and 4 on this. They destroyed 28 of our fighter planes and sank *McCawley* at Rendova, destroyed 4 fighter planes and scored a near miss on *Wadsworth* this time.

CHAPTER XVII

# The Battle of Empress Augusta Bay[1]

## *2 November 1943*

SUCCESSFUL as the landings were, everyone expected the Japanese Navy to attempt another Savo Island. And they were not disappointed. The principal enemy bid to break up the landings developed in the early hours of 2 November.

Admiral Koga preferred to keep Combined Fleet and most of the Eighth Fleet at Truk, beyond Allied bombing range; but Vice Admiral Sentaro Omori, Comcrudiv 5, happened to be at Rabaul on 30 October after bringing in a convoy. Admiral Samejima, Commander Eighth Fleet, more embarrassed than happy at this sudden increase of strength, wanted to send Omori back to Truk, but Koga felt that the opportunity was too good to be missed, and overruled him. So at 1000 October 31, Samejima ordered Omori to get under way with all Eighth Fleet ships present – his own heavy cruiser division (*Myoko* and *Haguro*), two light cruisers and two destroyers – to intercept an American task force reported to be steaming up the Slot. This was Merrill's bombardment mission. As we know, Merrill left the Slot to bombard the Buka Passage airfields, and so Omori, steaming along toward

[1] Rear Admiral Merrill's Action Report 3 Nov. 1943 includes the best track chart; Capt. Burke's Action Report 4 Nov. 1943 also is valuable, but those of other units involved add little. Capt. Ralph Parker's comments in his "Cincpac Monthly Analysis" for Nov., Annexes A and F, have been useful; Admiral W. S. Pye's comments on the battle (Naval War College, 13 Jan. 1944) brought out several points. Japanese sources now available are the Nov. 1945 interrogation of Vice Admiral Omori (*Inter. Jap. Off.* II 337); I discussed the battle with him and his flag captain in 1950; a valuable track chart obtained by Mr. Salomon in Japan; "Southeast Area Operations" Part 3 (Navy), and the following ATIS documents: 15685, a formal action report; 16269-C, critique by Cdr. Yamada of Omori's staff and Capt. Ohmae of Eighth Fleet Staff; 16648-A, answers to my questions presented by Mr. Salomon in 1946.

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the Treasuries, missed him. When the Japanese received word at 0230 November 1 that Merrill was off Buka, Omori returned to Rabaul.

Upon his arrival, at 1100, Admiral Samejima, who had got word of the landings that morning at Torokina, ordered him to escort a counter-landing force of a thousand soldiers embarked in five APDs, and also to break up the American amphibious forces. And he gave him four more destroyers which (in Omori's words) "had just come in on that tide." No chance for a conference or a battle plan; just a pick-up job as we had assembled at Tassafaronga and Kolombangara. But Ijuin, the victor at Vella Lavella, was somebody worth picking up.

With this augmented force Omori sortied at 1700 November 1. After reaching St. George Channel, where the transports should have joined, he was told that they were not ready; he had to wait for them until 2030, and when they did join he found they could do no better than 26 knots. To add to Omori's discomfiture, his force sighted a United States submarine, and lost more time evading it. Then, at 2120, a plane dropped a bomb close aboard cruiser *Sendai*.[2] Assuming that he had been sighted, and in view of the several delays, the Admiral decided he could not make the counter-landing that night. He radioed Samejima recommending that it be called off, but that he be allowed to attack the American transports, which he assumed were still in Empress Augusta Bay. In other words he proposed to do what Mikawa had failed to do on 9 August 1942. Samejima agreed; the five troop-laden APDs returned to Rabaul, Omori bent on 32 knots and continued south. Here is his task organization: —

TOROKINA INTERCEPTION FORCE, Rear Admiral Sentaro Omori
Cruiser Division 5, Rear Admiral Omori
MYOKO, HAGURO
Screen, left flank, Rear Admiral Matsuji Ijuin
Light cruiser *SENDAI, destroyers SHIGURE, SAMIDARE, SHIRATSUYU
Screen, right flank, Rear Admiral Morikazu Osugi
Light cruiser AGANO, destroyers NAGANAMI, *HATSUKAZE, WAKATSUKI
*Sunk in this action.

[2] We have been unable to discover what plane this was.



While Omori was rushing south, Rear Admiral Merrill's cruisers and Commander B. L. ("Count") Austin's Desdiv 46 were passing a quiet day at sea near Vella Lavella, cleaning up and resting[3] after their two bombardment missions of 1 November. Captain Arleigh Burke, whose Destroyer Division 45 was low on fuel owing to some fast stepping during the second bombardment, had been sent to refuel from a barge in Hathorn Sound at the head of Kula Gulf. Burke finished this job at 1630 and made best speed to rejoin Merrill, which he did at 2315. Merrill was already steaming north to intercept Omori, of whose movements he had been accurately informed by reconnaissance planes.[4] But Omori did not expect to encounter anything but transports.

Merrill selected a meeting point well to the west of Empress Augusta Bay, and set course and speed accordingly. He deployed his force on a north and south line of bearing of unit guides, the leading destroyer three miles ahead of flagship *Montpelier*. The cruisers were spaced 1000 yards, and there was a 3000-yard interval between the rear cruiser and the flagship of Destroyer Division 46. Although this was the classic formation for such a force when going into night action, it differed in one essential respect from the tight column used a year earlier. "The destroyers were not tied in close to the main battle line, and held there within gun range. They were loose, well removed from the cruisers, with flexibility and freedom of action. They were used offensively instead of defensively, and were sent in to fire their torpedoes before opening gunfire."[5]

Merrill's force was composed as follows; the ships are listed in order of battle: —

[3] Since the terrible example afforded by the Savo Island battle of what fatigue can do to fighting men, the ships' internal organization had been rearranged in order to give personnel a certain amount of rest even during periods of continuous activity; and our battle-hardened bluejackets had learned the soldier's trick of relaxing completely when not working.

[4] "That the two reconnaissance planes which tracked and accurately reported the position, course and speed of the Japanese task force were piloted by Army officers is further evidence of the coöperation which exists between the several services in the South Pacific Area." (CTF 39 Action Report p. 41.) Admiral Merrill describes the reports of these pilots as "phenomenally accurate."

[5] Admiral Pye's comments, sec. 10.

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TF 39, Rear Admiral A. Stanton Merrill in *Montpelier*

Van Destroyers (Desdiv 45), Captain Arleigh A. Burke (Comdesron 23)

| | |
|---|---|
| CHARLES F. AUSBURNE | Commander L. K. Reynolds |
| DYSON | Commander R. A. Gano |
| STANLY | Commander R. W. Cavenagh |
| CLAXTON | Commander H. F. Stout |

Main Body (Crudiv 12), Rear Admiral Merrill

| | |
|---|---|
| MONTPELIER | Captain R. G. Tobin |
| CLEVELAND | Captain A. G. Shepard |
| COLUMBIA | Captain F. A. Beatty |
| DENVER | Captain R. P. Briscoe |

Rear Destroyers (Desdiv 46), Commander B. L. Austin

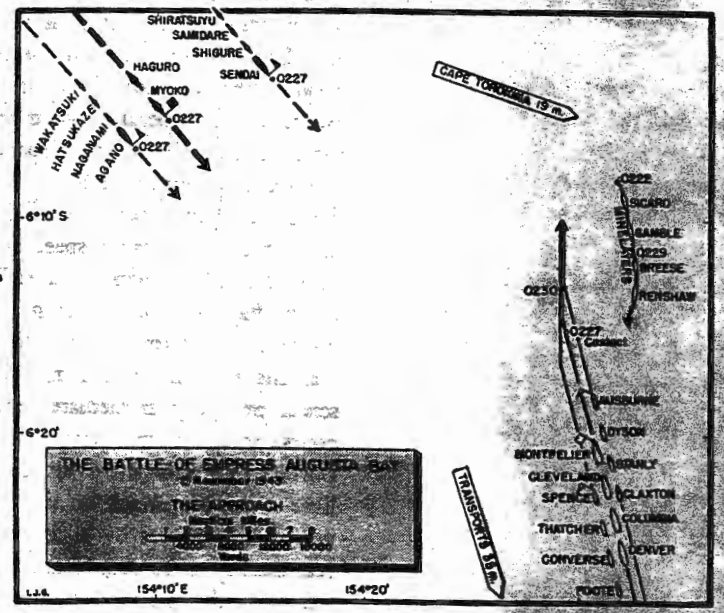
| | |
|---|---|
| SPENCE | Commander H. J. Armstrong |
| THATCHER | Commander. L. R. Lampman |
| CONVERSE | Commander DeW. C. E. Hamberger |
| FOOTE | Commander Alston Ramsay |

The four days' moon set early, leaving the night very dark with stars showing through patches in the overcast, except when a rain squall made up. The sea was calm, light airs were blowing from the southwest, and flashes of lightning were observed to the south.

At 0130 November 2 an American plane flew in out of the darkness and dropped a bomb on heavy cruiser *Haguro* which opened up some side plating and slowed the Japanese formation to 30 knots. Ten minutes later, a float plane from *Haguro* reported "one cruiser and three destroyers" about 50 miles off shore. This was Merrill's force, badly underestimated. Omori altered course to engage, but just after doing so, at 0200, he got word that another scout plane had dropped flares over Empress Augusta Bay and discovered "many transports unloading troops." Since no transports were then in the Bay, the plane must have seen the American minelayers, *Breese*, *Gamble* and *Sicard* escorted by destroyer *Renshaw*, which had just laid a protective mine field north of Cape Torokina and were retiring. Lieutenant Commander Lark, who led them, reported to Admiral Merrill at 0222 that he was retiring and "bringing the snooper along too." The minecraft passed Merrill's cruisers on reverse course, and had a front-row seat for the opening phase of the battle.



Task Force 39 approached the rendezvous that was bound to be fatal for somebody at a speed of 20 knots, so that the wakes of the ships would not attract snooper planes. The situation was now similar to that of the fateful 9 August 1942 off Guadalcanal; but Merrill had exact knowledge of Omori's movements, and he knew




that the best defense for the transports was to drive him away. Merrill's battle plan was "to maintain the cruisers in a position across the entrance to Empress Augusta Bay and to prevent the entry therein of a single enemy ship." He proposed to push the enemy westward in order to gain sea room and to fight at ranges close to the maximum effective range of Japanese torpedoes, say 16,000 to 20,000 yards, in order to protect his cruisers from the fate of *Helena*. He planned to detach the two destroyer divisions for an initial torpedo attack, to hold his cruisers' gunfire until the

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fish struck home, and to give his destroyer commanders complete freedom of action once they were detached. Both plan and doctrine were well known to Burke but imperfectly so to Austin, who had just joined.

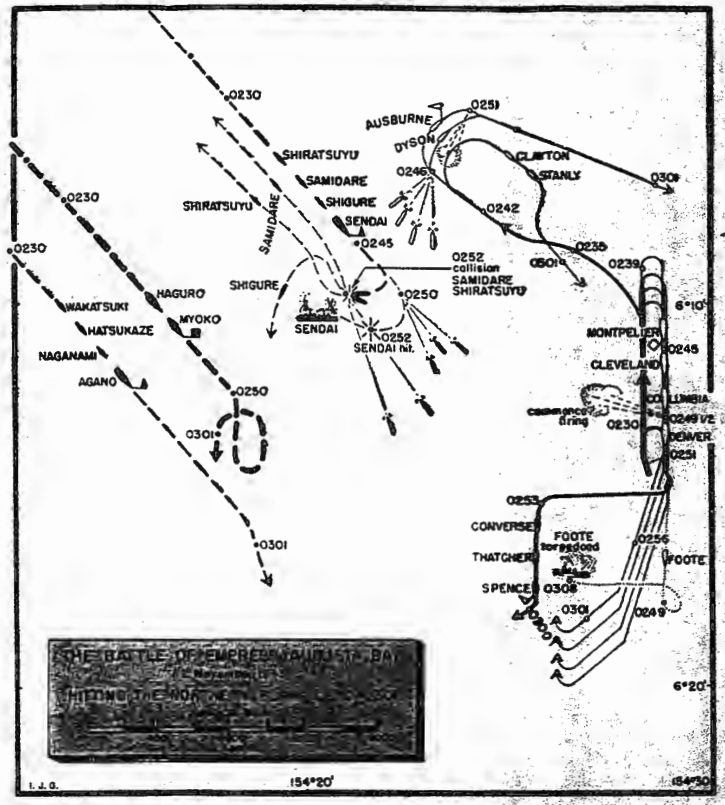
Omori, after receiving the false report of transports unloading troops, changed course at 0200 toward Empress Augusta Bay. He was in cruising disposition, in three columns: Ijuin's screen on the left; Omori's two heavies in the center; Osugi's screen on the right, 5000 meters or more between columns. Some of his ships had radar, but the operators were poor and Omori relied wholly on visual sighting. This time, Japanese eyes and binoculars were not so good as American radar.

At 0227 November 2, when Task Force 39 was steaming course 345° on line of bearing, speed 28 knots, about 20 miles W by S of Cape Torokina, "apple gadgets" (surface pips) began to appear on the flag radar screen, range 35,900 yards. "Believe this is what we want!" reported *Montpelier's* combat information center. It was the left enemy column; the other two showed up on the screen presently. Immediately after radar contact, Merrill changed course to due north, putting his ships in three columns; at 0231 Burke's four van destroyers shoved off, according to plan, to deliver a torpedo attack on the enemy's flank. At 0239 Merrill reversed his cruisers by a simultaneous 180° turn, instructing the rear destroyers to countermarch and become the van, and then to attack on the enemy's southerly flank with torpedoes as soon as they could get on the target. The battle now broke up into three distinct actions from our point of view; one by the cruisers, and one by each destroyer division. But from Omori's point of view it was all the same.

The Japanese admiral, at or about 0245, received two reports of the American position. A reconnaissance aircraft dropped a flare over Merrill's force, and light cruiser *Sendai* sighted it. Omori then ordered simultaneous turns right, to a southwesterly course, both in order to get into battle formation, and to close. While making this loop, between 0250 and 0252, the *Sendai* column fired about



eight torpedoes. Thirty seconds before they launched, Merrill, who had been tensely waiting for Captain Burke's torpedoes (launched at 0246) to strike home, received a report from his C.I.C. of the enemy's movement and ordered his cruisers to commence gunfire.




Omori said he saw "fierce shellfire" coming from the enemy, and it was *Sendai* that caught all of it – the typical concentration of night radar-controlled gunfire. *Sendai* had her rudder jammed. She appeared to be burning and exploding. Destroyers *Samidare* and

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*Shiratsuyu,* in her column, collided while trying to avoid the 6-inch salvos, and hauled out from the battle. A pretty good initial score for Merrill – one cruiser and two destroyers eliminated when his guns were scarcely warm. Owing, however, to Omori's right turn, none of the 25 torpedoes fired by Burke's four destroyers found a target. The Japanese opening salvos, in the usual compact patterns that they favored, were short and ahead; but their star shell illumination was brilliant. To counteract this, Merrill's cruisers made smoke and, at about 0251, turned simultaneously to course 200° in order to maintain their range, which was then about 19,000 yards. As a result of these countermeasures, "and perhaps because we lead purer lives" (as Admiral Merrill remarked), his cruisers received not one hit during the first half hour.

Omori's two heavies, *Myoko* and *Haguro* in the center column, turned south at 0250. Next, failing to locate their enemy, they completed a 360-degree loop. The southern column, the *Agano* group under Rear Admiral Osugi (whose tactics in this action the Japanese regarded as deplorable), followed the center in a vague and uncertain manner. At this time Merrill's 6-inch shells were falling all around the ships of both the *Myoko* and the *Agano* columns. American gunnery was good – the third salvo "walked right into the target."[6] *Hatsukaze,* third ship of Osugi's column, was doing her best to dodge when she cut between cruisers *Myoko* and *Haguro* and collided with the former, at 0307. *Myoko* sheared off two of the destroyer's tubes and carried a chunk of her starboard bow back to Rabaul; Omori thought he had sunk her.

Merrill in the meantime was doing some radical maneuvering, as may be seen on our charts. At 0301, after steering south for some 20 minutes, he started the first loop of a colossal figure 8. The purpose of this maneuver was partly to shake off Desdiv 46, which was slow in clearing the cruisers' line of fire, and partly to hold an advantageous range; but mostly to make the torpedo-and-gun solution more difficult for the enemy. Merrill maneuvered his cruisers

[6] So Omori told the writer in 1950; he added that Merrill's fourth salvo was over, and he maneuvered to keep the rest over.



so smartly and kept them at such a range that no enemy torpedoes could hit, no matter how accurate a solution the Japanese might work out; for by the time their torpedoes had completed their runs the intended victims were somewhere else.

All this time the American cruisers were dishing out 6-inch gunfire from long range as they zigzagged violently at 30 knots. Admiral Merrill gave high praise to his captains for maintaining formation "during more than an hour of very violent maneuvering by voice radio amidst the deafening din, and for a portion of the time under a heavy cloud of chemical or funnel smoke." Very little damage, however, was inflicted on the enemy during this phase. *Haguro* took six hits but four of them were duds; she slowed down about 0315 but quickly picked up speed. Omori had only just sighted his enemy (at 0313); he then turned from course 180° to 160° in order to close, and both his heavy cruisers fired torpedoes. At the same time his 8-inch fire improved, straddling Merrill's three leading cruisers in salvo after salvo. Between 0320 and 0325 *Denver,* the leading cruiser, received three 8-inch hits forward, which fortunately failed to detonate but let in so much water that she had to cut corners to keep up, although her sister ships slowed to 25 knots. In the meantime, the *Myoko* group and the *Agano* group, with two destroyers, were steaming in a general SSE direction, converging with the course, due south, that Admiral Merrill held until 0326. At that time, since the range had closed to 13,000 yards, which put his cruisers within enemy torpedo water, Merrill executed a 180-degree turn counter-clockwise in order to open range, completing the lower loop of his figure 8.

Enemy planes now approached Merrill's force and dropped both white and colored flares.[7] At that point in the battle there was a cloud ceiling over the cruisers which acted as a silver reflector to the flares and star shell. These brilliantly lighted up the four grace-

[7] Commodore Reifsnider in his Action Report states that he sighted the running lights of planes at 0337 approaching the transports from the direction of Admiral Merrill. "While still at a considerable distance they orbited and headed back toward TF 39." These were undoubtedly the planes that dropped the flares, but they could not be seen from the cruisers.

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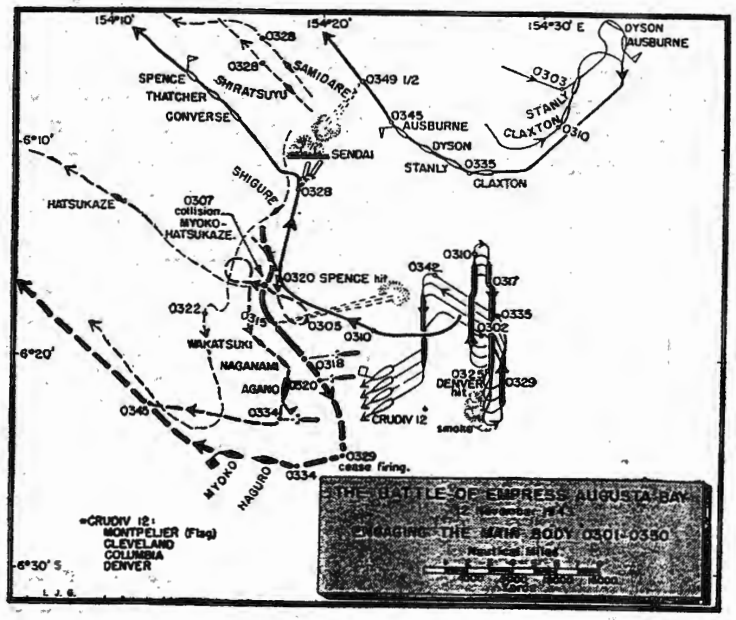
ful cruisers spouting flame as their prows hissed through the black waters, in which their salvos were reflected as broken splashes of orange light. Geysers from the enemy's 8-inch misses rose deliberately from the sea like fountains in some princely garden, flashed red, green and golden as they reflected the flares and the cruisers'




gunfire, poised immobile for a split second, and tumbled back in a sparkle and glitter of phosphorescent spume. It was one of those rare moments of awful beauty that naval warfare occasionally vouchsafes to those who occupy their business in great waters.

Omori, nevertheless, was much disappointed at the performance of his star shell. Some fizzled out, others fell short, and he had only ten for each 8-inch gun. Such visual effect as he got was completely deceptive; he saw two high geysers arise on the engaged side of each of Merrill's three cruisers, and assumed that these near-misses



were torpedo hits; the cruisers then disappeared – probably in their own smoke – and he thought he had sunk them. This happened at 0327. The Japanese admiral greatly overestimated both the number and the types of ships that were opposing him.[8] Three of his destroyers were out of action and *Sendai* was going down. So, believing he had done a good night's work and should tempt luck no further, he ordered a general retirement at 0337.

While Merrill's cruisers were tracing intricate patterns on the pathless deep, Destroyer Division 45 went off on a cruise by itself and Division 46 was in trouble. Burke's ships, after launching torpedoes at 0246, became separated in the darkness. It required a full hour for the Captain to reform his "Little Beavers" and come full circle to his former firing position. There at 0349 he encountered a target, the sinking *Sendai*, made several gunfire hits and observed her to be settling in the water as he roared by at 32 knots. *Samidare* and *Shiratsuyu* were observed ahead on the radar screen, so Burke went in hot pursuit of them. Presently he made radar contact with *Spence*, Commander Austin's flagship. Observing a ship ahead turning northward and apparently in a bad way, Burke called over voice radio to Austin, "We have a target smoking badly at 7000 yards and are going to open up," to which *Spence* replied, "Oh-oh, don't do it – that's us!"

Sadly enough, it was not *Spence* but *Samidare* or *Shiratsuyu* who thus obtained grace. Division 45 was then heading a little south of west. At 0457, out of touch with his Admiral, Burke executed a right 180° turn, at the end of which his radar screen showed another target to the southeast. *Spence* was already working over this ship, the damaged *Hatsukaze*, at point-blank range, and had her afire from stem to stern. Austin requested Burke to help finish her off; so the squadron commander turned again, opened fire at 0518 and, at 0539, had the satisfaction of seeing *Hatsukaze* sink. There were no survivors. Day was breaking as Division 45 hastened to rejoin the cruisers.

[8] Omori believed, until informed otherwise by the writer in 1950, that he had been opposed by 7 heavy cruisers and 12 destroyers.

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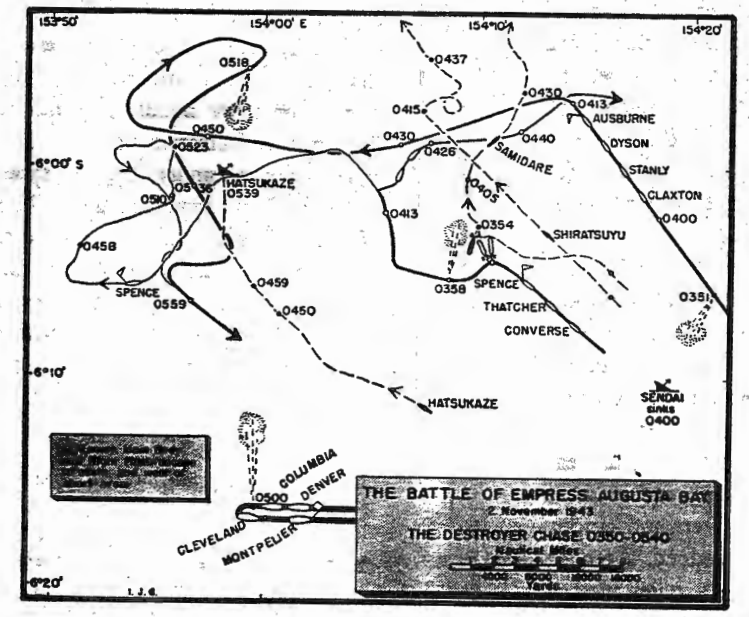
The four destroyers of Division 46 had already accumulated all the bad luck on the American side. Owing to their distance to the rear, their radar contact on the enemy was delayed, and so they lost the opportunity to deliver a torpedo attack before gunfire opened. *Foote* misunderstood the Admiral's signal to counter-




march, and, instead of following her leader in column, turned 180° immediately, so that she was out of formation at 0245 when Austin, having made radar contact, turned another 90° to course W in search of a good torpedoing position. *Foote* soon discovered her error and endeavored to rejoin, but while hot-footing it in Austin's direction she ran smack into a Japanese torpedo that was intended for the cruisers. Her stern was blown off by the explosion and she went dead in the water right in the cruisers' path; *Cleveland* had to use full rudder to miss her by 100 yards. *Spence*, turning right



angles in a frantic effort to keep out of the cruisers' line of fire, sideswiped *Thatcher* but without impairing the speed of either destroyer.[9] *Spence* at 0320 received a shell hit at the waterline in such a manner that salt water entered a fuel tank and later slowed her down by contaminating fuel. Thus Austin lost the use of one ship and had two annoying mishaps before his division was able to fire a shot. On top of all that, he missed an excellent opportunity to fire torpedoes at 4000 to 6000 yards' range toward Omori's heavy cruisers, because his combat information officer insisted that the large pips on the radar screen were "friendly."[10]

Austin now turned north in search of other targets and encountered light cruiser *Sendai* making circles in the same locality where she had been hit, and still hitting back. *Spence* and *Converse* fired eight torpedoes at her at 0328. Two explosions were heard, but they did not sink her; Burke, as we have seen, fired the *coup de grâce* eleven minutes later. *Spence*, *Thatcher* and *Converse* then headed northwest, overhauling *Samidare* and *Shiratsuyu*. They had been standing by *Sendai* but started away upon Austin's approach. A brisk little torpedo and gunfire action ensued, but neither side appeared able to hit the other, although range at one time was only 3000 yards and Division 46 fired 19 torpedoes at 0352. *Spence*, with little fuel left, alternately lost and gained suction as salt water diluted her fuel tanks, so Austin designated Commander Lampman of *Thatcher* as O.T.C., sheered out of column at 0413 and steered a wide circle to the west and south which put *Spence* on the other side of the destroyer at which Burke was then firing. That target was probably *Shiratsuyu*; either she or Burke opened up on *Spence*

[9] This collision gave rise to a typical piece of CPO humor. After the battle, when *Spence* was going alongside another ship, Commander Armstrong passed the word to put a second fender out. A veteran potbellied chief boatswain's mate was heard to mutter, "If the captain can go alongside at 30 knots with no fender, he don't need two now!"

[10] Cdr. Austin had left the C.I.C. for the bridge on account of the collision; his bridge P.P.I. (Position Plotting Indicator) scope went black, and the C.I.C. personnel became disoriented without the division commander to direct them; hence this expensive error.

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at 0425. Austin promptly voice-radioed to Burke, "We have just had another bad close miss. Hope you are not shooting at us," to which Burke replied, "Sorry but you'll have to excuse the next four salvos as they are already on their way!" *Spence*, as one might expect, took very radical evasive action.

At 0454 Austin heard the Admiral's order for all destroyers to join the flagship. As a target still showed on the radar screen he closed it to 4000 yards and opened fire. *Spence's* ammunition was running so low that Austin had to request Burke to take over and finish the job, a commission joyfully executed. That target was *Hatsukaze*, and as day was breaking both Burke and Austin saw her roll over and sink. *Spence* was now ready to call it a night, and fell in with Division 45 as it retired. *Thatcher* and *Converse*, which had turned eastward at 0415, also retired.

Merrill's cruisers, in the meantime, were off on a 20-mile jaunt to the west in search of more targets. Wounded *Hatsukaze*, the only one that they encountered, was fired at a few minutes before 0500, at a range of 17,500 yards, but apparently the cruisers did not hasten her demise. Burke, around 0500, asked permission to pursue fugitives and search for survivors, but the Admiral expected a heavy air attack at dawn and wished to gather his chickens near, if not under his wings; Reifsnider's transports, too, were on his mind. So he instructed Burke to collect all destroyers and rendezvous at the position where *Foote* had been torpedoed. At 0505, when the flagship had reached a point about 10½ miles west of that position, it was light enough to see several of the destroyers closing in. An enemy scout plane sighted him and reported him a few minutes later. Eighteen "Vals" and 80 "Zekes" promptly took off from Rabaul to get him.

Merrill found *Foote* disabled but afloat. *Claxton* took her in tow with *Ausburne* and *Thatcher* as escorts; the Admiral with the cruisers commenced retiring southward. There were so many Japanese planes in sight or on the screen that a bluejacket wisecracked, "Pipe to breakfast; how do you want your eggs?" Fighter direction in a destroyer still in Empress Augusta Bay was



requested to vector every available plane to intercept the Nips and protect *Foote*. Flying weather was bad that morning and most of the scheduled Airsols fighter cover did not get up in time from Vella Lavella; but eight Hellcats, one Marine Corsair, three Army Lightnings and four New Zealand Warhawks were vectored out and shot down eight enemy planes before they reached the cruisers.[11]

The Japanese air strike of over 100 planes, all carrier planes that had arrived at Rabaul the day before, began to close Merrill's formation a few minutes before 0800. The air group commander brought his formation right over *Foote* without releasing a bomb; *Foote* shot at him and claimed splashing at least one. As the Japanese closed the remaining ten miles to the cruisers, Task Force 39, already in circular anti-aircraft formation, executed an emergency 90-degree turn in order to bring batteries to bear. At about 0805 the 5-inch guns began to talk at a range of 14,000 yards, causing deep concern among the American planes overhead who imagined the fire to be directed at them. Admiral Merrill recounts the ensuing action: —

> With the 5-inch battery firing like overgrown machine guns, the first three planes seemed incredibly slow in reaching their release point. Soon the 40-mm guns were in action, and then the 20-mm joined in. The scene was of an organized hell in which it was impossible to speak, hear or even think. . . . The air seemed completely filled with bursting shrapnel and, to our great glee, enemy planes in a severe state of disrepair. The *Montpelier's* main battery got one sure 6-inch hit that tore the plane to pieces. Other planes were in flames as they passed over the flagship, exploding inside the destroyer screen. In a few minutes' time, while the guns were still firing at maximum rate, three Nips descended in parachutes, landing almost in the center of the formation. . . . Ten planes were counted in the water at one time, and seven additional were seen to crash well outside the formation.[12]

[11] Capt. Goodman's Report "Rôle of Aviation in Bougainville Operation" Historical Div. Marine Corps. p. 35.

[12] Action Report p. 30. Seventeen planes is also the claim recorded in Airsols Weekly Summary and Review 5 Nov. 1943. We have been unable to find any Japanese records to check this.

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At 0807 Merrill ordered an emergency 360-degree turn in order to keep his formation spinning clockwise. The dive-bombers attacked in groups of three, well spaced, which allowed ships' anti-aircraft batteries to concentrate on each wave; and the combination of brisk gunfire and tight circling rattled the aviators as they corkscrewed down. Some broke off, others were shot down before reaching the releasing point, others bombed wildly, a few came in below masthead height without release and then crashed, their pilots killed during the dive. Only two hits were made on the entire force, both on *Montpelier's* starboard catapult, wounding one man seriously. The attack ended at 0812 and, although the surviving enemy planes reformed, a group of Airsols fighters vectored out from the Bay broke them up, shot down eight planes and chased the rest away.

Considering what the task force had been through the previous night, its success in beating off a major air attack without much air support was phenomenal. It was the pay-off for Admiral Halsey's insistence on frequent anti-aircraft practice. Task Force 39, however, owes a vote of thanks to General Kenney. By the time the air attackers had returned to Rabaul, a big V Army Air Force raid was on, and Admiral Kusaka was unable to send out more planes, as he had planned to do, to chase ships.

Merrill now hoped to retire to Purvis Bay for much-needed rest, fueling and replenishment of supplies and ammunition. But at 1310, when he was already 30 miles southeast of the Treasuries, the inexorable Halsey ordered him to return to Empress Augusta Bay to cover the retirement of Commodore Reifsnider's four transports that were still unloading. Three hours later, he received the welcome news that these ships were already on their way south; so he shaped a course for rendezvous and stayed with the transports through a dark and lowery night. At 0900 November 3, off Rendova, Merrill gladly handed them over to cruiser *Nashville* and destroyer *Pringle*, dispatched from Guadalcanal for that purpose, and turned up sufficient speed to make anchorage in



Purvis Bay at 1745. These fighting seamen, who had been on the go continuously, had fought two bombardments and one night action and had beaten off a major air attack since leaving the same port 63 hours before, now had to turn to, refueling and taking ammunition on board. *Foote*, minus her stern, towed by tug *Sioux* and escorted by *Claxton*, arrived safely next morning, 4 November, "amidst loud cheers, incongruously punctuated by yawns," as Admiral Merrill records.

A vast amount of ammunition had been expended by the cruisers of Task Force 39 during its two and a half days of bombarding and fighting. Here are the figures, not counting anything smaller than 5-inch for the night action.

| | *Buka Bombardment* | | *Shortlands Bombardment* | | *Battle of Empress Augusta Bay* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | *Night* | | *Day Air Action* | | | |
| | 6" | 5" | 6" | 5" | 6" | 5" | 6" | 5" | 40-mm | 20-mm |
| MONTPELIER | 721 | 589 | 259 | 598 | 1489 | 0 | 47 | 305 | 1250 | 4662 |
| CLEVELAND | 750 | 400 | 176 | 577 | 840 | 0 | 0 | 230 | 794 | 942 |
| COLUMBIA | 750 | 599 | 0 | 740 | 1219 | 680 | 0 | 329 | 1974 | 2013 |
| DENVER | 730 | 487 | 0 | 509 | 1043 | 25 | 0 | 140 | 745 | 1044 |
| *Total* | 2951 | 2075 | 435 | 2424 | 4591 | 705 | 47 | 1004 | 4763 | 8661 |

The results, in terms of hits, show that the accuracy of 6-inch cruiser fire had not improved since the battles up the Slot. It is not known how many hits *Sendai* took at the start of the action, probably not more than five, since her fighting ability was not greatly impaired and only the fact that her rudder was jammed allowed the destroyers to sink her with gunfire and torpedoes. *Myoko* took but one or two 6-inch shell hits and *Haguro* six, of which at least four were duds. Possibly *Agano* and some of the destroyers in Osugi's column were hit, but not seriously. Let us allow 20 possible 6-inch hits obtained by Merrill's cruisers that night; not much for almost 4600 rounds fired. However, the effect of the cruiser gunfire was not limited to hits. By having forced rapid maneuvering on Omori's scratch task force, Merrill may claim credit for the two collisions. And of the 52 torpedoes launched

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by our destroyers, we can claim only two hits, both on *Sendai*. The destroyers also expended 2596 rounds of 5-inch shell during the night action.

Victory, however, is attained by relative, not absolute results. Omori had twenty 8-inch and six 6-inch guns to Merrill's forty-eight 6-inch. His ships mounted eighty-eight 24-inch torpedo tubes against Merrill's eighty 21-inch tubes. Yet all he accomplished was five shell hits on *Denver*, one on *Spence* and one torpedo hit on *Foote*. Although Omori reported nonexistent heavy cruisers and other ships sunk, his superiors were not pleased that he had failed to get at the American transports, and relieved him of command.[13]

Merrill deserved every bit of his victory. He made a good beginning by releasing destroyers to fulfill their primary function of torpedo attack; and if the results were disappointing that was to be expected of a lusty child just released from leading strings. He was bold when boldness was needed and cautious when caution was required; in the face of a constantly changing tactical situation he kept his poise, confidence and power of quick decision. His swift simultaneous turns to avoid enemy torpedoes, while he was pouring out continuous rapid fire, were masterpieces of maneuver.

Of his task force the Admiral said, "It functioned as a well-drilled team. Each officer and each man did his job as he had been trained to do it. . . . Officers and men alike were brave and calm and confident. They were confident in their superiors, in their subordinates, and in themselves. Though our losses might well have been greater, the final outcome of the battle was never in doubt."

Doubt, however, still hung over the final outcome of the Bougainville operation. The enemy had six to eight heavy cruisers at Truk, from whom a serious threat of surface attack developed within forty-eight hours. This time it was carriers to the rescue.

[13] Omori on returning to Rabaul sent a submarine south to rescue survivors. It got none from *Hatsukaze*, but many from *Sendai* including the C.O. and Admiral Ijuin; others reached Bougainville on rafts, but 320 were lost. The casualties in Merrill's force were limited to 19 killed and 17 wounded in *Foote*, 9 wounded in air attack on *Montpelier*.

*Rear Admiral A. Stanton Merrill* USN

KARIG, CAPT. WALTER. BATTLE REPORT: MIDDLE PHASE. N.Y.: RINEHART, 1947

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

# Bougainville--Empress Augusta Bay

1

BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, the last Japanese stronghold in the Solomons, was invaded by Allied troops early in the morning of November 1. For three months, Admiral Halsey's staff had planned the undertaking under General MacArthur's authority. As surely as we knew we had to capture this largest and most northern island in the Solomons group, so did the enemy know that he had to keep it.

The war in the Pacific was changing in pattern, and it was a picture the Japs didn't like. Less than two years before, they had swept down from their home islands and mandated areas and gathered within their empire millions of square miles of territory that they felt destined to exploit forever as part of the "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere." The Allies had been forced to fight purely defensively. The best they could do in the Philippines, the Netherlands East Indies, Malaya, Sumatra, had been to make the Japanese pay as dearly as possible for every rich acre. And Japan was prepared to pay the cost. She had saved for this day, and in the long run the price would be cheap, with half the world under her thumb.

But the Japanese had been held—held before the last great prize of war, Australia, was reached. Japan was held, stopped, and then forced back. Back from Midway—a tumble, not a step. Back from Tulagi and Guadalcanal; back from New Georgia, from Kolombangara and Vella Lavella. Now it was the Allies who had taken the initiative, were taking the offensive. It wasn't a full-scale offensive; supplies were still too scarce, but they were crowding the Japanese, expending ships and planes with a disconcerting self-confidence.

Ringing the Japanese home islands in eleven separate patrol areas, watching the Chinese coast in five more, American submarines hunted



enemy shipping attempting to cross their blockade. It was nerve-racking work in the Sea of Japan, especially in La Pérouse Strait between Hokkaido and Karafuto where, in August, the PLUNGER and WAHOO sank shipping less than a mile from shore. "After about twenty-four hours in that sea," a submariner commented, "you get claustrophobia. You want to get out. I used to have dreams almost every night of taking the boat right over the land, rigging wheels on it and going right over Honshu to get out of there. Even yet, once in a while, I still have that dream."

The defensive-offensive phase of the Allied war effort in the Pacific was reaching a climax. Across the Solomon Sea to the westward the indomitable Australians had first stopped the Japanese in their thrust to Port Moresby and then had driven them slowly back over the Kokoda Trail toward Buna as 1942 ended. American troops had helped them that winter to crush permanently the Japanese threat to Port Moresby in the ten weeks of bitter fighting through swamp and jungle that completed the Buna-Sanananda operation on January 23, 1943.

In September, Rear Admiral Daniel E. Barbey's Southwest Pacific Amphibious Force—known since March as Amphibious Force, Seventh Fleet—had captured Salamaua and Lae. And on October 2 they had added Finschafen.

In the meantime, the Central Pacific campaign was under way with the occupation of atolls in the Ellice Islands in August. The same month Marcus Island had been raided by aircraft, and Tarawa—to be the scene of such bitter bloodshed later—felt the weight of Allied bombs on September 18. In October, the Japanese sitting complacently on Wake got their first taste of vengeance from Commander Winfield Scott Cunningham and Major James P. Devereux and their gallant company in the form of an air strike, and bombardment.

And as preparations for the capture of the northernmost island in the Solomons were being made, other forces were being assembled for the landing that would in history mark the opening of the Allied offensive stage: the Gilbert Islands campaign.

2

The landing on Bougainville was made halfway up the west coast of the island at Cape Torokina on Empress Augusta Bay.

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It wasn't the best spot for a landing with its low, swampy coast, and it offered no satisfactory anchorage for large vessels. Furthermore, the natives, unlike their brethren in the other Solomons Islands, inexplicably preferred the Japanese to the Allies; at the least they couldn't be trusted as scouts.

But Torokina's defenses were meager, and with it in our hands enemy communications to Rabaul could be effectively controlled. So, Cape Torokina was selected as the beachhead.

Five days before D-day, November 1, Admiral Wilkinson, who was in command of the whole operation, sent Rear Admiral George H. Fort to seize the Treasury Islands (What real estate promoters those old explorers were!) to the south, with a force of seasoned New Zealanders—veterans of North Africa, Crete and Greece. And as a diversion, the 2nd Marine Parachute Battalion landed at the same time on Choiseul.

It was known that Lieutenant General Vandegrift's Marines had as tough an assignment as they had ever drawn in landing at Torokina Point, and all available air and surface support was brought to nullify any possible Japanese attempts to thwart their success. H-hour was 7:15 A.M., about an hour after sunrise, and by that time the two Jap airfields of Buka and Bonis, lying on opposite sides of Buka Passage at the northern tip of Bougainville Island, had felt the blows of a surface bombardment from Admiral Merrill's ships, and an air attack from the planes of Admiral Fred Sherman's carriers SARATOGA and PRINCETON. And Admiral Merrill, after blowing up the airfields, turned and headed south at 30 knots for the Shortland Islands to make the first daylight bombardment of enemy installations in the South Pacific.

As the only cruiser task force in the area, "Tip" Merrill's Task Force 39 worked hard. Following its bombardment of the Shortlands it had orders to patrol north of Vella Lavella, ready to intercept any Japanase naval interruption of the unloading at Torokina, and when that was accomplished, to cover the eventual retirement of the transports.

As they headed away from the Shortlands in column (the destroyers CHARLES AUSBURNE, DYSON, CLAXTON, SPENCE and THATCHER in the van, followed by the cruisers MONTPELIER, CLEVELAND, COLUMBIA, DENVER and in the rear the destroyers CONVERSE, FOOTE and STANLY). Admiral Merrill's ships had been steaming at near maximum speeds for 29 hours and had cruised nearly 800 miles.

As a result the 2,100-ton "cans" were very low on fuel; so low, in



fact, that the Admiral knew his destroyers would not be able to fight anything more than a minor engagement at slow speed. And if there was to be an engagement at all it was certain to be a fight of major proportions—especially as there was word of two heavy Jap cruisers with three light cruisers and ten destroyers off Rabaul.

Admiral Merrill never underestimated the Jap. He calculated that the Japanese had probably weighed the chances of disrupting the landing at Empress Augusta Bay, and found them good; his snoopers had reported only one cruiser task force in the area, and it undoubtedly exhausted from continuous operations, low in fuel, ammunition and rest. There was a good possibility, Admiral Merrill concluded, that the enemy would strike on the night of November 1–2. If he didn't, he was a fool.

So, Tip Merrill concluded he had better get his destroyers fueled.

At Hathorn Sound at the head of Kula Gulf, 108 miles away from the Shortlands, was an oil barge. Admiral Merrill, as soon as the Shortlands were out of sight, ordered Captain Arleigh A. Burke to take his Division 45 to Hathorn, fill up, and return as soon as possible. Division 46 would stay to screen Crudiv 12.

Less than four hours later Burke's ships were fueling. Knowing that they had a long run back to rejoin the task force, and expecting any minute to hear of enemy forces headed for Bougainville, the destroyer skippers were in "a fever of impatience" to complete fueling. "Everybody tried to get more capacity out of the barge fuel pumps than was in them," said Captain Burke. "It was a battle for fuel."

By one o'clock the DYSON and AUSBURNE had been filled and they cleared the barge to allow the STANLY and CLAXTON to come alongside for their turn. Swiftly the fuel lines were run across and the pumping started. Never did the gauges record the gallons so slowly, and, when in the early afternoon the anticipated intelligence report came in of an enemy force near St. George's Channel, the dials that actually were recording a speed record for the barge, seemed to the impatient eyes of destroyers' engineers perceptibly to slow down.

But by 4:30 fueling was complete, and Captain Burke led his ships on their return.

In the meantime, Admiral Merrill had his orders, based on ComSoPac's excellent intelligence on the movements of the enemy force. American scout planes ranging out from our Solomons bases kept track of four light cruisers and six destroyers that had been first seen early that morn-

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ing. On the basis of their reports the Admiral was able to set his course for interception at a speed that would save precious fuel.

Task Force 39 had a job to do. As covering for the landing, it had to ensure that no Japanese—like the force reported—interfered with the getaway of the transports which had been scheduled for four o'clock, but which (because of Japanese air attacks and beach conditions Admiral Halsey described as "worse than anything ever encountered before in the South Pacific") had delayed departure until six. Merrill's ships had to protect not only these, but the transports that would return to Torokina to unload the following morning. To occupy his spare time he had to cover the minelaying operations of the BREESE, GAMBLE and SICARD, with the RENSHAW as screen, that were laying their lethal eggs off Cape Moltke, 15 miles northwest of Torokina.

There was a new moon in the sky, that night of November 1, 1943, but its thin silver gave no light through the holes in the overcast. At intervals the horizon was lighted with flashes of heat lightning.

At 11:30 P.M. a flash of lightning silhouetted the shapes of vessels heading at high speed for the task group, and the splutter of TBS informed the Admiral that Burke's destroyer division was reporting for duty again.

Merrill was glad to see them. There would definitely be action tonight!

The Admiral had a number of problems to solve if he was to fulfill his mission of protecting our landing beaches and vessels of the landing force. To save them from harm was of course the first; to do it, he had a task group which now constituted the Allies' main mobile surface strength in the South Pacific area. The job, therefore, was to turn the enemy away without too greatly jeopardizing that last remaining force; it was more important for the success of future operations to turn the enemy away than it was to annihilate the Japanese fleet at the expense of losing several of our ships.

Merrill realized that his task force had ships that had never operated together before. (He did not know that his opponent, Vice Admiral Omori, had the same troubles.) Destroyer Division 46 was newly formed and had never had the chance even to practice a night torpedo attack as a unit. One of the division's ships, THATCHER, had just joined after a period of escorting convoys. And he couldn't forget that physical fatigue and nervous strain were unwanted passengers aboard every ship. Within



the past thirty hours his officers and men had delivered two major shore bombardments, and maneuvered at all times in the expectation that at any moment a major surface action would have to be fought. That expectation was now a certainty.

Admiral Merrill's plan was this: to place his ships in such a position that they would block the entrance to Empress Augusta Bay; when action was joined, to push the enemy gradually to the westward away from the bay; it would enable him to gain sea room for maneuvering, and also allow any of his ships that might be damaged to retire on the disengaged side.

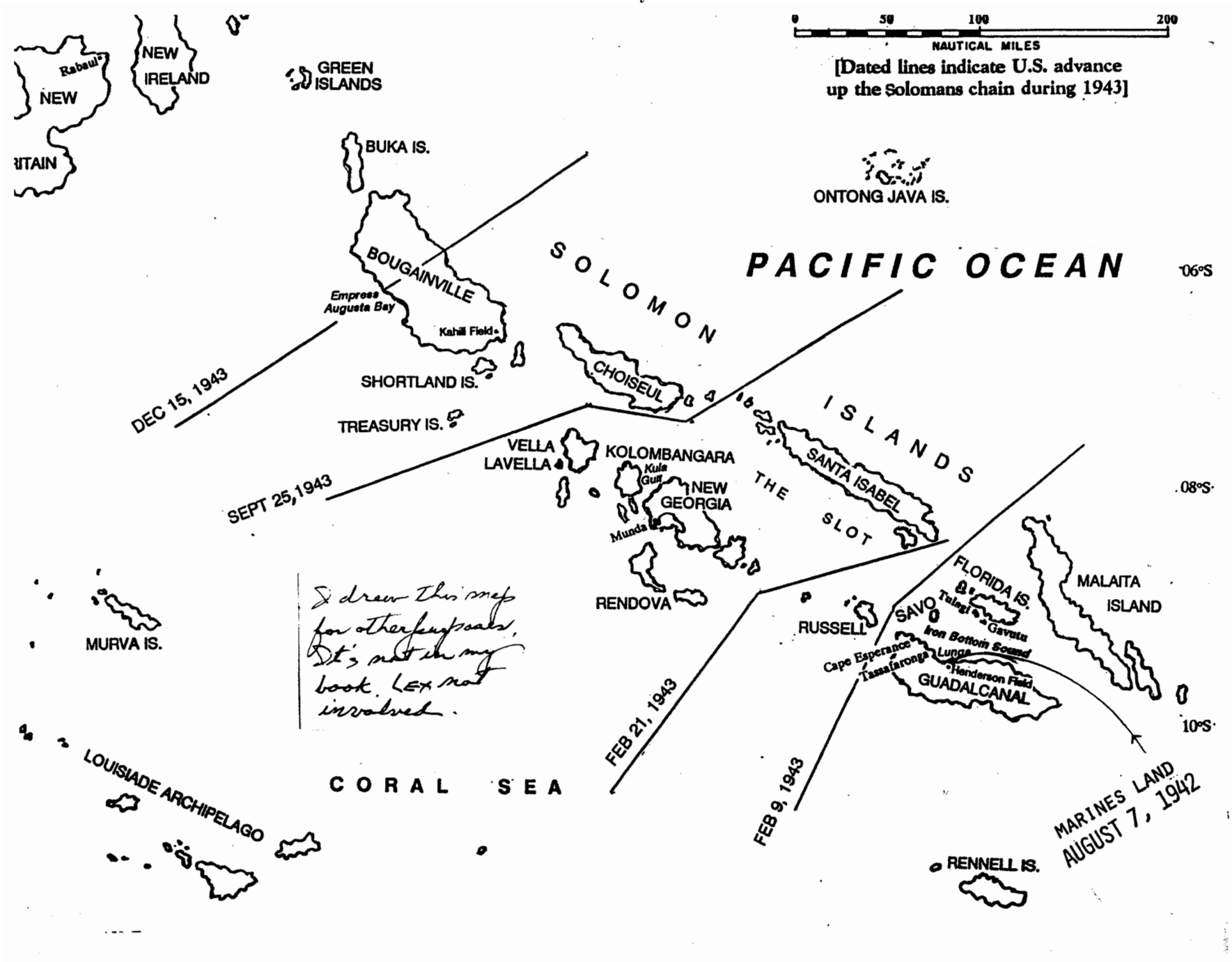
They were at general quarters when, at twenty-two minutes past two in the morning a group of ships was seen on the radar screens. A few minutes later they were identified as the mining detail returning from its operations in the waters off Cape Moltke. "I am bringing my snooper with me," signaled the RENSHAW. She kept her enemy snooper with her too, as the force crept by our cruisers and destroyers and made their way into the bay, for the Japanese flier apparently never spotted the larger task force.

The minelayers were none too soon in getting home. Just five minutes later, Task Force 39 made initial radar contact with the Japanese force, coming in from the northwest, 16 miles away.

## 3

As more and more historical records documenting the war are uncovered by occupying United States Navy forces in Japan, a more and more amazing picture of the Nipponese mind is brought to light. In Tokyo, where the General Staff should have known exactly what was going on in each theater of war, the confusion was the greatest. Apparently the certainty of victory had been so drummed into the military mind that evidences of defeat were not even permitted to be reported. At least, the lower echelons disliked admitting reverses to their superiors, wherefore a completely erroneous appraisal was passed on up through the chain of command, until the very men charged with the over-all strategy had astonishingly bogus information from which to plan future operations.

At this stage of the war the effect of this strange philosophy was not so great an ally to us as it was to be later, when the Japanese top command would call upon fresh forces to halt the mounting offensive and

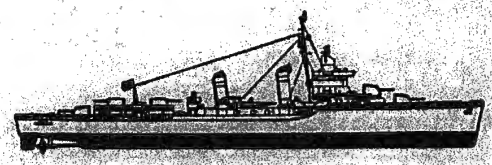

0 50 100 200
NAUTICAL MILES
[Dated lines indicate U.S. advance up the Solomans chain during 1943]
NEW IRELAND
Rabaul
NEW
ITAIN
GREEN ISLANDS
BUKA IS.
ONTONG JAVA IS.
PACIFIC OCEAN
06°S
SOLOMON
BOUGAINVILLE
Empress Augusta Bay
Kahili Field
SHORTLAND IS.
CHOISEUL
DEC 15, 1943
TREASURY IS.
ISLANDS
VELLA LAVELLA
KOLOMBANGARA
Kula Gulf
NEW GEORGIA
Munda
SANTA ISABEL
THE SLOT
SEPT 25,1943
08°S
RENDOVA
FLORIDA IS.
MALAITA ISLAND
RUSSELL
SAVO
Tulagi
Gavutu
Iron Bottom Sound
Cape Esperance
Tassafaronga
Lunga
Henderson Field
GUADALCANAL
MURVA IS.
I drew this map for other purposes. It's not in my book. LEX not involved.
FEB 21, 1943
FEB 9, 1943
10°S
LOUISIADE ARCHIPELAGO
CORAL SEA
MARINES LAND AUGUST 7, 1942
RENNELL IS.

UNITED STATES

# DESTROYER OPERATIONS

IN

WORLD WAR II



By Theodore Roscoe

RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL EDITING BY
REAR ADMIRAL THOMAS L. WATTLES
U. S. NAVY (RETIRED)

★

*DESIGNED AND ILLUSTRATED BY*
*LIEUT. COMDR. FRED FREEMAN, U.S.N.R.*

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Watts Family File #2

and "Torch" fronts. Rear Admiral F. C. Sherman was on hand with a strong carrier force which contained newly repaired SARATOGA and the light carrier PRINCETON. Admiral Wilkinson's amphibs were given added muscle, and convoys carried ground reinforcements to Guadalcanal in a steady stream.

To soften up the opposition, the Allies launched a series of air assaults in mid-October. Biggest of these was aimed at Rabaul by General MacArthur, who was in over-all command of the area. On October 12 a massive fleet of 349 Army planes raided the enemy's Bismarck citadel. MacArthur publicized his air offensive as "taking out Rabaul," but although tons of bombs were dropped on Simpson Harbor, only a few small Jap vessels were sunk and a handful of Jap planes destroyed.

The western shore of Bougainville was selected for the landings—beaches at Cape Torokina on the northern point of crescent-shaped Empress Augusta Bay. Here the coast was virtually unexplored jungle. There were few inhabitants, black or white. The shore bled off into the sea in a quagmire of stagnant lagoons and swamps. The shallows were uncharted.

The invasion was scheduled for the first week in November. By way of preliminaries, shore bombardments were conducted, and American troops landed on Treasury Island.

The Japs were caught off guard in the Treasury group when the Americans steamed in on the morning of October 27. The Treasury garrison fired mortar shells at the American landing craft, but the mortars were quickly silenced by destroyer PHILIP (Lieutenant Commander W. H. Groverman). At 1530 in the afternoon some 25 "Vals" swept in to attack the landing craft. Destroyers CONY (Commander H. D. Johnston) and PHILIP maneuvered at high speed to dodge the rain of bombs. CONY, carrying a fighter-director team, called for air help, but the "Vals" were not intercepted. Two bombs struck CONY on the main deck aft, putting her out of action with a flooded engine-room, and killing eight of her crew. Next day she was towed to Tulagi by the tug APACHE.

On the last evening of October, Rear Admiral Merrill led his Task Force 39 to the northernmost rung of the Solomons ladder to bombard the Jap airfields on the Bonis peninsula and on Buka Island. His force included four light cruisers and Captain Arleigh A. Burke's Destroyer Squadron 23, a DD team soon to shoot its way into headlines as the "Little Beavers."

The "Little Beavers" and Merrill's cruisers began shooting at the Buka-Bonis targets at 0021 in the morning of November 1. Jap aircraft promptly attacked the bombardment ships, but hit nothing, whereas hundreds of well-aimed cruiser and destroyer shells landed on Jap airstrips, Jap planes, and Japs.

Having hashed up the enemy's air defenses at the northern end of Bougainville, Merrill rushed his task force to the southern end to repeat the performance in the Shortland Islands. As he described it, his ships "made a dignified retirement at 30 knots." Then they bombarded the Shortland airstrips with dignity.

November 1, 1943 was D-Day for the Bougainville landings. To guarantee a reduction of air opposition, Rear Admiral F. C. Sherman took his carrier group northward to launch follow-through strikes at the Buka-Bonis airstrips. Planes from the "SARA" and PRINCETON bombed these bases on that day and the next. When they were through, Jap aircraft from Buka and Bonis did not contest the Bougainville landings, nor were Jap planes from the Shortlands in evidence.

The first troops put ashore on Bougainville were some 13,300 Marines, and the convoy of 12 transports was screened by 11 destroyers under Commander Ralph Earle, ComDesRon 45. The destroyers were: FULLAM, GUEST, BENNETT, HUDSON, ANTHONY, WADSWORTH, TERRY, BRAINE, SIGOURNEY, CONWAY, RENSHAW.

At Cape Torokina the Japs had one 75 mm. artillery piece and a company of less than 300 men. For a short time this force put up savage resistance, but it was soon whittled down and chased into the jungle. A few Jap aircraft from Rabaul struck at 0735, D-day morning. Planes from Vella Lavella and Munda scattered the attack, the only ship casualty resulting from a near miss that shook up destroyer WADSWORTH and killed two of her crew.

During D-day afternoon about 100 Jap carrier planes roared down from the Bismarcks. They, too, were intercepted by American fighter planes. The Americans were coached into position by a fighter-director team in destroyer CONWAY. No ships or landing craft were hit by the attacking Japs.

By late afternoon General Turnage's Marines were on the beaches of Torokina with supplies and battle gear. The situation was well in hand, and Wilkinson pulled his transports out of Empress Augusta Bay before nightfall, anticipating a furious reaction from Japanese air and surface forces at Rabaul. His anticipations were to be realized in the Battle of Empress Augusta Bay.

*The Battle of Empress Augusta Bay (Arleigh Burke in Action!)*

When word reached Admiral Koga at Truk that the Americans had dared to put foot on Bougainville, he radioed instructions to strike the interloper and strike hard. Rabaul's air strength was mustered, and

with air power to back him up, Rear Admiral Sentaro Omori set out from Rabaul late in the afternoon of November 1 with a bloodthirsty surface force. Mission: to blast the Americans at Cape Torokina.

In Omori's force were heavy cruisers MYOKO and HAGURO, light cruisers SENDAI and AGANO, and six destroyers. Five troop-carrying assault transports sortied with the force, intending to land a thousand soldiers on the Torokina beaches to give battle to the U.S. Marines. But these APD's were late for the rendezvous, and after an American sub was sighted near St. George Channel, Omori was glad to send them home. He wanted freedom for fast maneuver.

He needed it. Halsey had the word on his sortie, and ComSoPac had lost no time in dispatching Rear Admiral Merrill's task force to intercept the southbound Japs. When Merrill received this flash assignment his cruisers were off Vella Lavella, enjoying a breather after the strenuous bombardment work of the previous day. Commander B. L. ("Count") Austin was on hand with DesDiv 46. Captain Arleigh Burke's DesDiv 45 was refueling in Hathorn Sound at the entrance of Kula Gulf, but these destroyers topped off with dizzy speed, and by 2315 in the evening of November 1, Merrill's force was racing headlong to meet the warships of Admiral Omori.

Omori did not expect to encounter a cruiser-destroyer force. He expected, perhaps wishfully, to encounter a transport group. Bearing down on Empress Augusta Bay, he had his Imperial naval vessels disposed in a simple formation with heavy cruisers MYOKO (flagship) and HAGURO in the center; light cruiser SENDAI and destroyers SHIGURE, SAMIDARE, and SHIRATSUYU to port; light cruiser AGANO and destroyers NAGANAMI, HATSUKAZE, and WAKATSUKI to starboard.

Merrill's force was disposed in line-of-bearing of unit guides. In column to starboard were Burke's van destroyers: CHARLES AUSBURNE (Commander L. K. Reynolds); DYSON (Commander R. A. Gano); STANLY (Commander R. W. Cavenagh); and CLAXTON (Commander H. F. Stout). In center column steamed cruisers MONTPELIER (flagship), CLEVELAND, COLUMBIA, and DENVER. To port steamed Austin's rear destroyers: SPENCE (Commander H. J. Armstrong); THATCHER (Commander L. R. Lampman); CONVERSE (Commander D. C. E. Hamberger); and FOOTE (Commander Alston Ramsay).

Omori's force suffered the first blow when an American plane, detecting the Jap approach, planted a bomb in the superstructure of heavy cruiser HAGURO. That was at 0130 in the morning of November 2. Lamed by the hit, HAGURO reduced the formation's speed to 30 knots. Then one of that cruiser's planes reported Merrill's task force coming up. The airmen erroneously notified Omori that one cruiser and three destroyers were in the offing. When, a few minutes later, he was informed by another air scout that a fleet of transports was unloading in Empress Augusta Bay, he sent his formation racing southeastward, hot for a massacre. Apparently the "transports" sighted were destroyer minelayers REESE, GAMBLE, and SIGARD, at that time working along the coast under escort of destroyer RENSHAW.

The night was black as carbon. Several of Omori's warships carried radar apparatus, but he put more reliance on binoculars. American "Sugar George" radar was to out-see Japanese vision on this occasion.

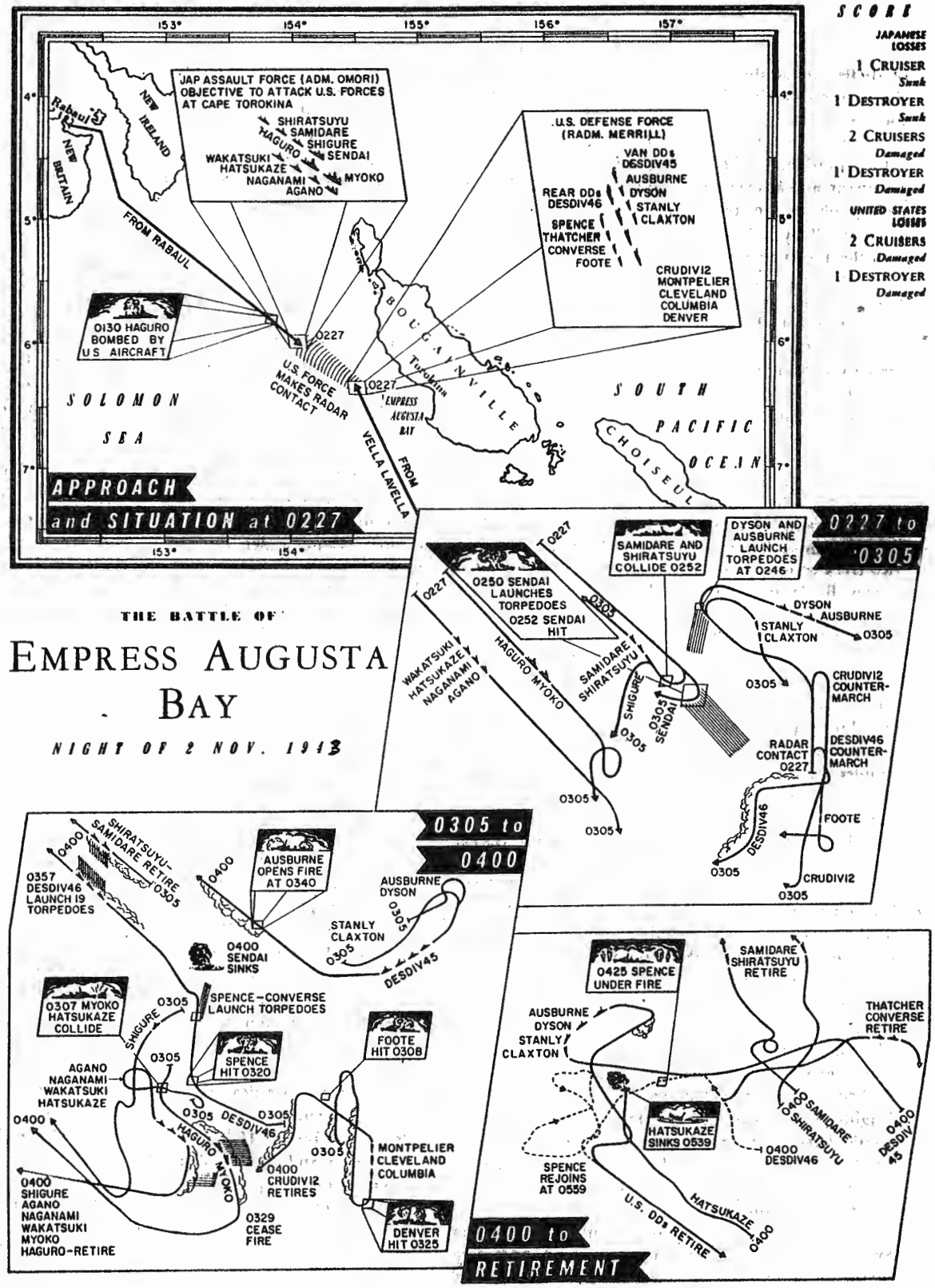
Merrill's cruisers made the initial radar contact at 0227. He had already decided to maintain his ships in a position that would block the entrance to Empress Augusta Bay. Once action was joined, he intended to elbow the enemy westward, thereby gaining sea room which would enable him to fight a long-range gun battle with least chance of danger from Jap torpedoes. But his destroyers were to open proceedings with a torpedo attack, and the cruisers were to hold their fire until the "fish" had opportunity to strike the foe.

These plans were carefully laid, and they were known, chapter and verse, by Captain Arleigh Burke, leader of Des Div 45. Commander Austin and DesDiv 46 were not so well versed in the detail. They were new to Task Force 39, and Austin was not thoroughly acquainted with Merrill's battle techniques.

As soon as radar contact was established, Merrill headed his formation due north. After a brief run, Burke's van destroyers sliced away northwestward to deliver a torpedo strike as planned. Merrill then ordered a simultaneous turn to reverse course. Austin's destroyers were instructed to countermarch, and then hit the enemy's southern flank with torpedoes as soon as they could reach firing position.

While Merrill's cruisers were swinging around the hairpin turn, Burke's destroyers were tacking in on Omori's portside column. At 0246 Burke shouted the word over TBS, *"My guppies are swimming!"* But the Japs had sighted Merrill's cruisers, and Omori was turning his formation southwestward. Because of this sudden turn, the barrage of 25 "guppies" sailed on into silence and oblivion, and Burke's briskly executed attack failed to score.

Meanwhile, the SENDAI column launched torpedoes at the American cruisers. But Merrill had not waited for this counterfire. When C.I.C. informed him of Omori's southwestward turn, he ordered his cruisers to let go with gunnery. I.J.N. SENDAI was chief target for this booming fusillade. She caught a cataract


SCORE
JAPANESE LOSSES
1 CRUISER Sunk
1 DESTROYER Sunk
2 CRUISERS Damaged
1 DESTROYER Damaged
UNITED STATES LOSSES
2 CRUISERS Damaged
1 DESTROYER Damaged
JAP ASSAULT FORCE (ADM. OMORI) OBJECTIVE TO ATTACK U.S. FORCES AT CAPE TOROKINA
SHIRATSUYU
SAMIDARE
SHIGURE
HAGURO
SENDAI
WAKATSUKI
HATSUKAZE
NAGANAMI
MYOKO
AGANO
U.S. DEFENSE FORCE (RADM. MERRILL)
VAN DDs DESDIV45
AUSBURNE
DYSON
STANLY
CLAXTON
REAR DDs DESDIV46
SPENCE
THATCHER
CONVERSE
FOOTE
CRUDIV12
MONTPELIER
CLEVELAND
COLUMBIA
DENVER
Rabaul
NEW IRELAND
NEW BRITAIN
FROM RABAUL
0130 HAGURO BOMBED BY U.S. AIRCRAFT
0227
U.S. FORCE MAKES RADAR CONTACT
BOUGAINVILLE
Tulolua
EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY
VELLA LAVELLA
FROM
SOLOMON SEA
SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN
CHOISEUL
APPROACH and SITUATION at 0227
0227 to 0305
0250 SENDAI LAUNCHES TORPEDOES
0252 SENDAI HIT
SAMIDARE AND SHIRATSUYU COLLIDE 0252
DYSON AND AUSBURNE LAUNCH TORPEDOES AT 0246
DYSON
AUSBURNE
STANLY
CLAXTON
0305
CRUDIV12 COUNTER-MARCH
RADAR CONTACT 0227
DESDIV46 COUNTER-MARCH
FOOTE
DESDIV46
CRUDIV12
0305 to 0400
SHIRATSUYU-SAMIDARE RETIRE
0357 DESDIV46 LAUNCH 19 TORPEDOES
AUSBURNE OPENS FIRE AT 0340
AUSBURNE
DYSON
STANLY
CLAXTON
DESDIV45
0400 SENDAI SINKS
0307 MYOKO HATSUKAZE COLLIDE
SPENCE-CONVERSE LAUNCH TORPEDOES
SPENCE HIT 0320
FOOTE HIT 0308
AGANO
NAGANAMI
WAKATSUKI
HATSUKAZE
SHIGURE
HAGURO
MYOKO
MONTPELIER
CLEVELAND
COLUMBIA
0400 CRUDIV12 RETIRES
0400 SHIGURE AGANO NAGANAMI WAKATSUKI MYOKO HAGURO-RETIRE
0329 CEASE FIRE
DENVER HIT 0325
0400 to RETIREMENT
0425 SPENCE UNDER FIRE
SAMIDARE SHIRATSUYU RETIRE
THATCHER CONVERSE RETIRE
HATSUKAZE SINKS 0539
SPENCE REJOINS AT 0559
0400 DESDIV46
U.S. DDs RETIRE
HATSUKAZE
THE BATTLE OF
EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY
NIGHT OF 2 NOV. 1943

of shells just as she was swinging to starboard, and the explosions blew her innards right out through the overhead.

SENDAI's abrupt come-uppance threw her column into a jumble. In the ensuing confusion, destroyers SAMIDARE and SHIRATSUYU collided full tilt, and went reeling off in precipitous retirement. That left the SHIGURE all by herself, and she chased southward to join the Jap cruiser column.

MYOKO and HAGURO made a blind loop that tangled them up with the AGANO column. Although Jap starshells had turned the night into a dazzle, the heavy cruisers failed to sight Merrill's ships, and they maneuvered right into a tempest of American shell-fire. Steaming in a daze, MYOKO slammed into destroyer HATSUKAZE and ripped off a section of that DD's bow.

Meantime, Burke's "Little Beavers," having launched torpedoes, became separated. And they did not get back into battle until 0349, when AUSBURNE spotted SENDAI and hurried the vessel under with a volley of shots. Then SAMIDARE and SHIRATSUYU, the two DD's which had collided, showed up on the radar screen. Burke took off after these departing enemies at top speed.

Commander Austin's DesDiv 46 destroyers had run into hard luck. Destroyer FOOTE misread Merrill's signal to turn, and fell out of formation. While racing to rejoin Austin's column, she was hit in the stern by a Jap torpedo which had been aimed at the American cruisers. Cruiser CLEVELAND swerved just in time to miss the disabled DD by 100 yards. But destroyer SPENCE, farther down the line, was not so lucky. Swinging hard right to give the cruiser column a clear line of fire, she sideswiped destroyer THATCHER. The 30-knot brush sent sparks and sweat-beads flying, and removed a wide swath of paint, but both DD's kept on traveling at high speed. Then at 0320 a Jap shell punctured SPENCE's hull at the waterline. Salt water got into a fuel tank, contaminating the oil, and this slow poison soon reduced the destroyer's speed. As if this were not enough misfortune for one division, Austin's DD's lost a fine chance to strike at MYOKO and HAGURO with torpedoes. When his flagship sideswiped THATCHER, Commander Austin dashed out on the bridge to see what was what. Some bright "pips" blossomed on the radar screen; Austin would have fired torpedoes at 4,000 yards or so, but the C.I.C. officer reported the targets were American. So the little scrape with THATCHER cost something more than a paint job.

A moment later SPENCE made contact with cruiser SENDAI. At that time the Jap vessel was a staggering merry-go-round, but her guns were still firing, and she was as dangerous as a wounded leopard. Austin maneuvered for torpedo fire, and SPENCE and CONVERSE flung eight "fish" at the cripple. They did not sink her—Burke's destroyers would presently perform that chore. Austin's three DD's raced on northwestward in an effort to catch SAMIDARE and SHIRATSUYU.

By 0352 SPENCE, THATCHER, and CONVERSE had overhauled the two Jap DD's, and 19 American torpedoes were fanning out to catch each by the fantail. The 19 torpedoes scored a perfect zero. Some may have been improperly adjusted, but the zero probably had its source in improper fabrication.

In counterattack, SAMIDARE and SHIRATSUYU flung shells and "fish" at Austin's three destroyers. If the Jap "fish" missed, the marksmen at least had an excuse for poor torpedo work—the two Jap DD's were dodging to escape a tempest of shell fire, and both ships had been badly damaged by collision.

Now SPENCE was running low on fuel, and what little she had was contaminated by salt water. Austin relinquished his tactical command to THATCHER's skipper, Commander Lampman, and veered away with SPENCE to disengage. The maneuver brought his flag destroyer into line for a salvo from Arleigh Burke's fast-shooting division. At 0425 a pack of projectiles slammed into the sea around SPENCE.

Over the TBS Commander Austin shouted a plea to Burke.

WE'VE JUST HAD ANOTHER CLOSE MISS HOPE YOU ARE NOT SHOOTING AT US

Captain Burke's answer was a classic of Navy humor.

SORRY BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE THE NEXT FOUR SALVOS THEY'RE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY

Austin made haste to get SPENCE out of the vicinity. In dodging Burke's ebullient fire, SPENCE picked up a good target in Jap destroyer HATSUKAZE.

HATZUKAZE was the DD which MYOKO had rammed, and she was in no condition to dodge well-aimed salvos. SPENCE closed the range to 4,000 yards while her gunners pumped shells into the disabled Jap. HATSUKAZE was soon flaming and wallowing, her engines dead. Austin yearned to finish off this foe, but SPENCE's ammunition was running low, so he put in a call for Burke's destroyers to complete the execution. Thereupon an avalanche of 5-inchers from DesDiv 45 buried HATSUKAZE. About 0539 the ship rolled over and descended into the grave.

SPENCE joined up with DesDiv 45 as Burke ordered a retirement. Unable to catch SAMIDARE and SHIRATSUYU, destroyers THATCHER and CONVERSE were also retiring. As day was making, Admiral Merrill had already headed his cruiser column eastward. While

his DD's were trying to tag fleeing Japs, Merrill's cruisers had been maneuvering across the seascape in a duel with the Jap heavies. For over an hour the opposing formations had dodged about like gamecocks in a pit, neither side able to score a death-dealing blow. Convinced that he had tangled with no less than seven heavy cruisers, Omori pulled out at 0337 and fled northwest up the coast of Bougainville. The American cruisers chased until daybreak, then Merrill turned back, anticipating aircraft from Rabaul.

Around 0500 Burke's voice came cheerfully over the TBS. His destroyers were still to the west of Merrill's cruisers, and he requested permission to pursue the fleeing Japs. According to Captain Briscoe, Merrill's answer to this was,

ARLIE THIS IS TIP FOR GODS SAKE COME HOME WE'RE LONESOME

So Burke came steaming south with his seven DD's to keep the cruisers company.

"We were glad when those destroyers showed up," another cruiserman recalled. "As we pulled away from Empress Augusta Bay the radar screens broke out in a rash of aerial pips. It looked like a blizzard coming down from Rabaul."

Destroyer FOOTE, with her stern blown open, constituted a problem at this crisis. CLAXTON was ordered to take the disabled ship in tow, while AUSBURNE and THATCHER steamed as escorts. Vectored into position by a fighter-director team, 15 Allied aircraft flew to intercept the Jap planes racing down from the Bismarcks. Some 100 Jap carrier planes were too much for the Allied 15, and bulk of the defense fell upon Merrill's weary gun crews.

About 0800 the Jap aircraft attacked the retiring ships. The formation roared right over damaged FOOTE, some ten miles astern of the cruisers. Lamed though she was, FOOTE put up an umbrella of flak. No bombs were dropped upon her, and she saw a plane plunge into the sea.

Five minutes later, the Jap birds swooped down on Merrill's task force. He had the force disposed in a circular AA formation. As the bombers came over, he maneuvered to bring main batteries to bear, and the destroyers opened up with AA fire at about 14,000 yards.

Merrill described it in his Action Report:

> The scene was of an organized hell in which it was impossible to speak, hear, or even think. As the ships passed the first 90 degrees of their turn in excellent formation, the air seemed completely filled with bursting shrapnel and, to our great glee, enemy planes in a severe state of disrepair. . . . Planes were in flames as they passed over the flagship, exploding outside the destroyer screen. . . . Ten planes were counted in the water at one time, and seven additional were seen to crash well outside the formation.

At the height of the battle, Merrill ordered a 360° turn which kept the warship carousel steaming clockwise. All the gunners seemed to be catching prizes from the air. Three Japs bailed out in parachutes and landed almost in the center of the wheeling formation. "Bettys" blew up in the sky and exploded in the water. Of the 70 or 80 planes which attacked, perhaps two dozen were shot down (Jap figures were never forthcoming). The Japs landed only two hits on cruiser MONTPELIER, damaging a catapult and wounding one man. At 0812 they broke off the attack and ran northward, pursued by Allied fighter planes.

The Battle of Empress Augusta Bay and its aerial epilogue were over. On the sea and in the air the enemy had taken a colossal thrashing. A light cruiser and a destroyer sunk, two destroyers disabled, heavy cruiser MYOKO dented by collision, heavy cruiser HAGURO severely damaged—Omori's force slunk home in sorry defeat. In Merrill's force destroyer FOOTE was the one serious casualty, and even she would live to fight again. Cruiser DENVER and destroyer SPENCE, with minor damage, would lose little time on the binnacle list.

Commenting on this smash-hit victory, Admiral W. S. Pye of the Naval War College wrote:

> *The destroyers were not tied in close to the main battle line and held there within gun range. They were loose, well removed from the cruisers, with freedom of action. They were used offensively instead of defensively. . . .*

Offensively—that was the way Captain Arleigh Burke and his "Little Beavers" liked to work.

### *Augusta Bay Aftermath*

Early in the morning of November 4 a convoy carrying reinforcements sailed from Tulagi for the Cape Torokina beachhead. The eight APD's (destroyer transports) and eight ocean-going LST's were escorted by six destroyers of Captain J. E. Hurff's DesRon 22. These escorts were WALLER, SAUFLEY, PHILIP, RENSHAW, EATON, and SIGOURNEY. Merrill's indefatigable Task Force 39 covered the convoy formation. The ships reached Torokina unmolested.

A second section of this reinforcement lift followed in with infantry and artillery. This convoy was escorted by Commander Ralph Earle's DesRon 45 and a group of minesweepers. During the landings Jap aircraft pitched into the picture, but the assault was speedily disrupted by U.S. fighter planes. That evening the Jap bombers came back for another try.

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The transports had hauled out under cover of a convenient rainstorm. But the beady-eyed airmen found another target.

This target was a task group commanded by Rear Admiral L. T. DuBose. At dusk the group was steaming off Mutupina Point at the southern end of Empress Augusta Bay, covering the retirement of the unloaded transports. DuBose's group consisted of light cruisers SANTA FE (flagship), BIRMINGHAM, and MOBILE, and four destroyers under Captain E. M. Thompson, ComDesRon 25. These DD's were JOHN RODGERS (Commander H. O. Parish); HARRISON (Lieutenant Commander C. M. Dalton); MCKEE (Commander J. J. Greytak); and MURRAY (Commander P. R. Anderson). Thompson rode in JOHN RODGERS.

Buzzing in on the attack, the Japs found the American ships in anti-aircraft disposition, the cruisers centered as a hub in a wheel of destroyers. From dusk until moonset (1900 to 2015) the Jap torpedo-bombers, perhaps 30 in number, and accompanying planes kept after the warships. And, it should be added, the warships kept after the aircraft.

The Japs made ferocious bombing runs, skimming in over the cruiser and destroyer mastheads. High speed maneuvering and hot AA gunnery saved the Americans serious damage. BIRMINGHAM was hit hard by enemy missiles. But she was the only vessel to suffer in the onslaught, and the Japs lost about nine planes. Halsey commended the group for a "highly gratifying" performance that reflected good training.

The air battle fought by DuBose and company occurred on the evening of November 8. A somewhat similar action was fought by Merrill's task force off Empress Augusta Bay on the night of November 12-13. In this battle, cruiser DENVER was severely damaged by a "fish" from the low-flying Japs. At least six Jap carrier planes were gunned down.

After the assault of the 13th, Admiral Koga discontinued "Operation RO," although he announced it as a tremendous victory. In fact the Imperial Navy officially announced the destruction of 5 battleships, 10 carriers, 19 cruisers, 7 destroyers and what not off Bougainville. The truth was decidedly different. About 70 per cent of Koga's Third Fleet carrier planes which flew out of Rabaul had been lost. The Japanese Eleventh Air Fleet had suffered similar losses.

A number of things contributed to the frustration of Koga's anti-Augusta Bay blitz. One was the VT proximity-fused projectile. Introduced in the South Pacific by cruiser HELENA the preceding January, this item of ammunition was widely distributed in Halsey's fleet by November, 1943. (A word about the VT device. In effect it worked as a miniature radio transmitter-receiver. Affixed to an anti-aircraft shell, the contrivance sent out radio waves which were reflected back from a plane when it passed within 70 feet of it. The returning impulse exploded the shell. Shrapnel did the rest. Deadly for AA work, the projectile could also be used against surface targets. Destroyer TERRY had found VT ammunition just the thing to shoot at thin-skinned barges.)

Director-controlled 40 mm. fire also wrought the downfall of Koga's air campaign. The twin and quad 40's were much in evidence by November, 1943, and a 40 mm. barrage could deal a dive-bomber pilot a splitting headache. Ditto for the pilot of a torpedo-plane or a Jap fighter.

Destroyers carrying fighter-director teams were another big help at Empress Augusta Bay, as were the Army, Navy, and Marine planes on the job.

And so was the initiative a help. By the time Wilkinson's amphibs reached Cape Torokina, the whole Pacific Fleet was going on the offensive. The top of the Solomons ladder had been reached. The Allies were through with shoestring operations from here on out. A new, aggressive spirit spurred the Allies.

The Japanese were inspired by no such spirit.

Contrast the following incident with the episode concerning Lieutenant Hugh Barr Miller, whose will to live brought him out of a grave in the Central Solomons.

In the afternoon of November 10 Merrill's Task Force 39 was operating in an area west of Treasury Island. Six of Burke's destroyers were working with the force, and as usual the "Little Beavers" stirred up something. On this occasion destroyer SPENCE did the stirring. Here is the story as recorded in her Action Report by her skipper, Commander H. J. Armstrong:

> At 1545 the SPENCE sighted and, as requested, was ordered to investigate a life float. On approaching, several bodies were noted in the float as it passed close aboard down starboard side. Seven men who had been feigning death sat up and started talking in Japanese. One, apparently an officer and pilot, broke out a 7.7 mm. machine-gun (evidently salvaged from a plane). Each man in succession placed the muzzle of the gun in his mouth, and the Jap officer fired a round, blowing the back of the man's head out. The Jap first to be killed showed great reluctance to be included in the suicide pact. One man held him while another wielded the machine-gun. All of the bodies toppled over the side and sank, followed closely by sharks. The Jap officer, alone on the raft, gave a short farewell speech or harrangue to the Commanding Officer, then shot himself. Total time was only about five minutes.

The Japanese pilot's farewell address makes a fitting curtain-line for the last act of the Solomons drama.

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**Palmer P. Jones**

PO Box 549
Lebanon, NH 03766-0549
Nov. 18, 1999

Mrs. Rita Krebs
4108 Willow
Pascagoula, MS 39567

Dear Mrs. Krebs:

Thank you for writing + calling with information on Alton J. Watts.

This is the letter I have mailed to a gentleman named J. A. Watts whom I believe to be one of Alton J. Watts' nephews. Apparently there are 2 other surviving nieces or nephews. This letter will reiterate some of the information I passed on by phone as well as some new information. I have enclosed all of the same information I have sent to him. Hope you enjoy the materials. If you know or locate any other family members, please let me know. I look forward to meeting all of you at the Portland reunion if you can make it!!! Please feel free to send photos of yourselves/ family including any of Alton or his other relatives. All photographs will be returned safely to you.

Sincerely,

Georgia

Georgia Tuttle

P.S. My mother was a librarian ~~when~~ before she retired so I tried to provide references for the articles I sent!!

## Else Martin

**From:** joero@mindspring.com
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 1999 7:05 PM
**To:** emartin
**Subject:** Mama Watts

Else.
Did you know Mama Watts in Pascagoula. She was a friend of my Aunt Agusta Hudson, who lived 458 E. Live Oak.Ave. I took a picture of her 14 Mar 1948 by the front porch. She use to stop and talk to Aunt Gussie and my Grandfather Eddie Clements. If you know any of her family I would like to send them the picture. Her son owned the Quarter Note Resturant on Airport Blvd. in Mobile years ago but I could not find him in the phone book. She must have been in her 80's but she could out walk me. I really liked her.
Thanks for any help Lorraine Walker Romagnano
JOE

**Else Martin**

---

**From:** sandra doolittle [sandrad@ldl.net]
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 1999 7:44 AM
**To:** emartin
**Subject:** Research

Is there anyone in the Library who can research for me? I will be glad to pay for the work.

I am looking for Dr. Joseph Waldrop born in Mississippi, killed in Escatawpa, Al Washington, Co.
Born 1825 untill about 1872--he was a Minister, Physician, Ret. Merchant, Justice of thePeace
and State Rep. of Washington County.

Also Benjamin F Woulard lived in State Line Mississippi and also Erett Mississippi
Born 1805 untill 1885

Thank you,

Sandra W. Doolittle

179 N. Peterson Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
October 28, 1998

Mr. Wilbur V. Rogers
12243 Brookshire Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

Dear Mr. Rogers:

I enjoyed talking with you last night. I have enclosed copies of the letter which my father received from the family of your shipmate Alton J. Watts, and the *Foote-Notes* dated November 7, 1943. As I mentioned, my father, Rev. William J Jarman, was the chaplain aboard the *USS Whitney (AD-4)* from September 1942 until May 1944. He had kept these papers which indicates that he was probably aboard the *USS Foote*. Personally I found the letter quite touching. Perhaps you will have some luck in finding the Watts family.

Unfortunately, I was wrong last night when I said that I had some communication from your ship's captain. Actually, it was a memorandum from the captain of the *USS Cony* to his crew. I am enclosing a copy for your reading as I thought it would interest you. Perhaps your ships operated together.

I extend to you my best wishes for your reunion group and if I am fortunate enough to visit Baton Rouge, I look forward to a tour of the *USS Kidd*.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming holidays.

Sincerely yours,

William Jarman

Rev. William Jarman

R.K.

FATHER WAS A CHAPLAIN ON THE USS WHITNEY. THE FOOTE WAS TIED UP ALONG SIDE THE WHITNEY AFTER THE BATTLE OF EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY.



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Genealogy & Local History Dept.
Watts Family File #2

Pascagoula, Mississippi.
[redacted]

Chaplain William Jackson Jarman,
U. S. Navy Reserve, U. S. S. "Whitney",
C/o. Fleet Postoffice,
San Francisco, California.

A I R  M A I L

Dear Chaplain:-

Yesterday we received your letter of November 20th, to our Son's wife, and we want you to know how very much we appreciated your interest and the information contained in the letter, as well as your words of condolence.

We had heard nothing since we received the official message on November 5th, that our Son, Alton J. Watts, was missing following action, and have just been hoping and praying for some news, or more detailed information.

Of course, we had not given up hope, and even though the news contained in your letter makes it seem pretty hopeless, we feel that if God wills, a miracle could happen, whereby our Son may still be alive.

We are Catholics, as was Alton, and although his wife is not of our Faith, she, with us, is praying hard that he will be found safe and returned to us.

Until we received your letter we did not know whether or not the "Foote" had been destroyed.

If there is any further information that you can give us as to details of the action of which you speak, and after which our Son was missing, we would surely appreciate it. Suspense, as you know, is even worse than reality, and if we could know just what did happen, even though it would destroy any vestige of hope that we might have, we would like to know the truth.

We again thank you, and ask that you please remember Alton, as well as his wife and us in your prayers. In appreciation of your kindness, we will surely remember you in ours.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Watts,
P. O. Box No. 104,
Pascagoula, Mississippi.

FOOTE - NOTES

No. 7. November 7, 1943. Vol. 1.

The Greatest Little Paper Afloat - Prints Nothing But Straight Dope

## THE FOOTE's HONOR ROLL

Ensign Theodore J. O'Dell, U.S.N.R.

Dennis E. Bleasdale, F2c, U.S.N.

William C. Blougouras, S1c, U.S.N.R.

Aaron J. Blue, StM2c, U.S.N.R.

Robert J. Bush, S2c, U.S.N.R.

Harold E. Cooper, TM3c, U.S.N.R.

James Costantini, S2c, U.S.N.R.

Philip J. Culotta, F3c, U.S.N.

Peter J. Gaidis, S1c, U.S.N.R.

Alfred W. Grant, Jr., S1c, U.S.N.

John A. Henkel, S2c, U.S.N.R.

Raymond W. Jones, Jr., M2c, U.S.N.

Edmund K. Lambert, S1c, U.S.N.R.

Eugene H. Long, SC2c, U.S.N.R.

Harvard S. Mix, RT2c, U.S.N.R.

Max G. Tudor, EM2c, U.S.N.R.

George E. Watson, S2c, U.S.N.R.

[redacted]

Orlandaith C. Wheatley, F2c, U.S.N.

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PO Box 549
Lebanon, NH 03766-0549
Nov. 18, 1999

Mrs. Rita Krebs
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Pascagoula, MS 39567

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Sincerely,

Georgia

Georgia Tuttle

P.S. My mother was a librarian ~~then~~ before she retired so I tried to provide references for the articles I sent!!

R.K.

179 N. Peterson Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
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12243 Brookshire Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

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William Jarman

Rev. William Jarman

RK.

FATHER WAS A CHAPLAIN ON THE USS WHITNEY.
THE FOOTE WAS TIED UP ALONG SIDE THE WHITNEY AFTER
THE BATTLE OF EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY.

Krebs
cem

There must be many which have disappeared — I remember seeing, twelve or more years ago, a tall slender stone, close to the lake end, for the Leonard Darragin who married Corinne Bilbo — It was down, and the next time I went there I did not see it at all — What I was really looking for, and could not find then, was the stone of his grand-father, also Leonard Darragin — (I knew he was buried there, and have two different inscriptions written by my great-grand father on the back of a railroad timetable!) I saw the



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Elam Stokes says that he posted notices on the door of the Courthouse, on the door of the postoffice at Zion Seminary and at Laughton Davis' mill.

(287) T.R. White, Adm'r of Joshua White's estate vs S.B. Hathorn, Adm'r of Wm. H. Thomas' estate. The deceased had purchased the property of the widow of Wm. H. Thomas. A year's worth of widow's provisions have not been paid to Mrs. Thomas or to Mrs. White. Joshua Burkhalter Jr., G.F. Robertson & D.G. Bullock are appointed Commissioners to set aside Mrs. Rhoda Thomas' part. Feb. 1855

(290) Joshua Burkhalter Jr. & Kiddy Burkhalter are allowed to delay the settling of Jones Burkhalter's estate until next December 24th in order to hire out some slaves for income. Perry hired out to William L. Speed. March Term 1855

(294) Petition of Reuben Watts, Adm'r de bonus non in place of Thomas L. Watts. Thomas Watts Jr. & Moses Pfiefer were partners in a merchantile business Reuben Watts wants Thomas' part settled. May Term 1855

(298) Petition of Rhoda L. McInnis, Adm'rx of George Watt's estate, is now ready for the distribution to: Bartlett S. Watts, Barbara wife of Wm. M. Coulter George Ann wife of Wiley Coulter, and herself the widow. Notes due:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Reuben & John Watts | Watts & Edmundson | J.E. McNair | Phillip Lott |
| Wm. Leggett | James Smith | Reuben Watts Jr. | Mr. Aultmon |

Expenses paid to:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pfiefer & White | Faler & Storm | M. Pfiefer | R. Watts Jr. |
| J.A. Graham | M. Eagan | Judges Pope & Napier | Clerk Robertson |
| R. Watts Jr., guardian of B.S. Watts | | W.M. & Wiley Coulter | |

Bartlett S. Watts, William M. Coulter & Wiley Coulter sign a release saying that they have received their share of the estate. May Term 1855

(301) Benj. Keys, Adm'r of Joshua Key's estate, filed a petition March 14, 1854 saying that there was a Gin Stand and a pair of Mill Rocks that had not been sold. Simeon Clark has bought the Mill Rocks and other sundries, and Nathaniel Lee bought a broad axe at the Aug. 12, 1854 sale.

(304) Inventory of Thomas J. Lott's estate. Notes on: James Edmundson, R. Watts & Joseph McAfee; on Jesse B. Lott & Joseph McAfee; on John Watts; & on Thomas Norris. A.C. Powell, Adm'r. May Court 1855

(305) James Smith, guardian of Nancy Watts, minor heir of John Watts, dec'd, files his 3rd annual report. July Term 1855

(306) James A. Stubbs states that on Oct. 10, 1842 he purchased a tract of land from Archibald Anderson, late of this county. SE4, 160a & S2 SE4, SE4 SW4 sec.25 & SW4 NE4 sec.36 T9N R18W & SW4 SW4 sec.30 T9 R17W & 45a described in sec.31 T9 R17W & 40a in sec.36 T9 R18W & E2 NW4 sec.36 T9 R18W, 420a in all. He paid in installments with the last note becoming due Jan. 1, 1850 which he paid. He has not yet received his deed. Archibald Anderson died intestate with John E. McNair as the Adm'r. The Sheriff of Simpson Co. is ordered to cite J.E. McNair to appear in Court and to give Mr. Stubbs his deed. July Term 1855

(310) Annual account of William Loflin, guardian of Nancy M. Ragland, a non compus mentis. July Term 1855

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May Term 1855

Proceedings had and done in the Probate Court of Covington County in the State of Miss. at a regular term begun and held according to law at the Court house of said County, on the second Monday (being the 14th day) of May A.D. 1855 before the Hon. A.S. Harper Judge of said Probate Court

Be it Remembered that heretofore to wit, on the 13th day of March 1855 Rhoda L. McInnis admx of the Estate of George Watts decd filed in said Court the following Account and

Petition to Surrender

To the Honorable A.S. Harper Judge of the Probate Court of Covington County Mississippi

The petition of the The undersigned administratrix of the estate of George Watts respectfully shows By virtue of the Letters of this Honorable Court heretofore granted to her she has administered the same by collecting all the debts due said estate and paying all of the debts against said estate and selling the personal estate and putting the money at interest

Your petitioner further shows that she is now ready to distribute and deliver said estate and she is desirous of surrendering her letters of administration - The decedent left surviving him the following named heirs and distributees to wit, Bartlett S Watts, Barbara (now Barbara Coulter wife of Wm M. Coulter) George Ann (now George Ann Coulter wife of Wiley Coulter) and your petitioner who is also the widow of decedent and entitled to one share) Your petitioner therefore prays your honor to direct the proper and legal notices to be given in this behalf and to cause such other orders to be made as to your honor may seem necessary and as a proper time to permit her to surrender her said letters of administration according to the provision of the statute, And your petitioner herewith files final account of receipts and disbursements Respectfully Submitted

Rhoda L. McInnis

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petitioner herewith pays [illegible]
and disbursements Respectfully Submitted
Rhoda L. McInnis
Administrator"

The following is the above mentioned

Receipts & Disbursements

To the Honorable A.S. Harper Judge of the
Probate Court of Covington County Miss
The undersigned Administratrix of

# Probate Court Records

the estate of George Watts deceased charge herself with the following receipts on behalf of said estate to wit being the assets aforementioned that have been received

| | |
|---|---|
| The note on Reuben and John Watts | $380.00 |
| The note of Watts & Edmonson | 415.00 |
| The note of J. E. McNair | 690.00 |
| The note on Phillip Lott | 250.00 |
| The note on Abraham & Wm Leggett | 590.00 |
| The note on James Smith | 23.85 |
| The note on Reuben Watts Jr | 240.00 |
| To amount of cash received from Auditor | 318.10 |
| | $2087.00 |

It is to be understood and so calculated that the amount to be distributed is $2087.00

The said administratrix prays allowance of the following disbursements made by her on account of and for the use of the children and heirs of her intestate in necessaries, Medical Bills &c all to be made in one sum and deducted from receipts so as to show the true balance to be distributed

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| The amount paid M. Faler | | Voucher No 1 | | $36.58 |
| " " " | Pfeifer & White | " | 2 | 35.56 |
| " " " | Faler & Storm | " | 3 | 18.41 |
| " " " | M. Pfeifer | " | 4 | 108.45 |
| " " " | Pfeifer & White | " | 5 | 58.21 |
| " " " | R Watts Jr for Gregory | " | 6 | 25.20 |
| " " " | J. A Graham | " | 7 | 12.62½ |
| " " " | M. Eagan | " | 8 | 10.00 |
| " " " | Judge Pope | " | 9 | |
| " " " | Judge Harper | " | 10 | |
| " " " | G. F. Robertson | " | 11 | |

I have paid R. Watts Jr. Guardian of B. S. Watts $400.00
" " " W. M. Coulter 400.00
" " " Wiley Coulter 1400.00
Yet due B. S. Watts $121.75 $9430.00
Yet due W. M. Coulter 121.75
Yet due Wiley Coulter 378.43
$621.93 Balance due from
R L McInnis
administratrix
Sworn to in open Court this the 14th day of May AD 1855. A S Harper Judge of the Probate Court

The following receipt or acknowledgment

May Term 1855

accompanied the foregoing final account and petition to wit

"The State of Mississippi Probate Court"
Covington County May Term 1855

We whose names are hereto subscribed have received from Rhoda L McInnis administratrix of the estate of George Watts deceased all of our distribution Shares of said estate that is to say we have shared only the principal of the estate in this division, And the interest that has accrued on the money that has been loaned at interest is hereby allowed to said administratrix for payment of expenses &c

Given under our hands and seals this 14th day of May 1855

Bartlett S Watts Seal
William M Coulter Seal
Wiley Coulter Seal"

On filing of the foregoing final account &c at the March Term 1855 of said Court there was made the following

Order

"In the matter of the Estate of George Watts deceased

On filing the the petition of Rhoda L McInnis admx of the estate of said deceased to file a final account of her administration with a view to surrender her letters of Administration; it is ordered that said petition be granted & that said final account be filed, And that Citations be issued to Covington County for Bartlett S. Watts Barbara Coulter and William M. Coulter her husband and George Ann Coulter, and Wiley Coulter her husband Citing them to be and appear at the next term of this Court and answer said petition:— And Cause Continued"

And afterwards to wit at the May Term 1855 first above mentioned of the Court aforesaid, there was made the following

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## Final Decree

In the matter of the application of Rhoda L. McGinnis admx of the estate of George Watts decd to surder her letters } This application coming on for final hearing and the said admx having under oath rendered a full account of her administration so far as the same has extended exhibiting a

[redacted]

[redacted]

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## Probate Court Records

balance due from her to the heirs of said estate (being of her own share) the sum of Six Hundred and twenty Dollars and 93 cents to wit, to B. S. Watts the sum of Six hundred and twenty one Dollars & 75 cents, to W. R. Coulter the sum of One hundred and twenty one Dollars and 75 cents, and to Nitey Coulter the sum of Three Hundred and Seventy eight Dollars & 43 cents.

And the said admx. having produced to the Court a receipt from said distributees of their distributive shares respectively;

It is ordered adjudged and decreed that said final account be allowed, approved and confirmed; and that said final account together with the proceedings in this behalf be recorded.

And it is further ordered that said admx. be permitted to surrender her letters; And that the powers, duties, and trust conferred by said letters be and they are hereby declared to be vacated and at an end from this date.

A true Record

G. F. Robertson Clerk

Proceedings had and done in the Probate Court of Covington County, State of Mississippi at a regular term thereof begun and held according to law at the Court house of said County, on the second Monday (being the 14th day) of May 1855 before the Hon. A. S. Harper Judge of Probate for said County.

Be it remembered that heretofore to wit, on the 14th day of March A.D. 1854 Benj.

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It is ordered adjudged and decreed that said final account be allowed, approved and confirmed; and that said final account together with the proceedings in this behalf be recorded. And it is further ordered that said admr be permitted to surrender her letters. And that the powers, duties and trust conferred by said letters be and they are hereby declared to be vacated and at an end from this date.

A true Record.
G. T. Robertson Clerk

Proceedings had and done in the Probate Court of Covington County, State of Mississippi at a regular term thereof begun and held according to law at the Court house of said County, on the second Monday (being the 14th day) of May 1855 before the Hon'l A. S. Harper Judge of Probate for said County.

Be it remembered that heretofore to wit, on the 14th day of March A.D. 1854 Benj. Keyes admr of the Estate of Joshua Keyes dec'd filed in said Court the following

Petition

"To the Hon'l A. S. Harper Judge of the Probate Court of Covington County, Mississippi

15. The petition of Benjamin Keyes admr of Joshua Keyes deceased shows that his intestate left among other personal effects one Gin Stand & one pair of Mill Rocks which have not been sold and prays your Honor to grant an order for the sale of the same on a credit of six Months; & your petitioner as in duty bound &c

Benjamin Keyes adm

On filing the foregoing petition &c

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Proceedings had and done in the Probate Court of Covington County, State of Mississippi, at a regular Term thereof begun and held at the Court House of said County on the Second Monday (the 8th day) of May A.D. 1854 before the Hon'l A. S. Harper Judge of said Probate Court

Be it remembered that heretofore to wit on the 15th day of March A.D. 1854 R. Watts Jr filed in said Court the following petition, To wit,

"The State of Mississippi }
Covington County } In Probate Court March Term 1854

To the Honorable A. S. Harper Judge of the Probate Court of said County – The petition of Reuben Watts Jr respectfully shows that he was on the day of January Term A.D. 1849 appointed by this Honorable Court of Probate guardian of the personal estate of Bartlett S. Watts of said County and that he is acting in that capacity that he is bound as such Guardian although the papers belonging to said guardianship was destroyed by fire on the fifth day of November last, Your petitioner respectfully prays your Honor to allow him to execute new bond as such guardian and that he may perform his duty as such according to law

And as in duty bound &c.

Reuben Watts Jr"

"Filed March 15, 1854
G. F. Robertson Clerk"

And the said petition was at the said March Term 1854 continued as appears from the following order entered on the minutes of said Court at that term to wit

In the matter of the petition of R. Watts jr to file bond as Guardian to B. S. Watts a minor heir of George Watts Dec'd

Ordered that this cause be continued until the next term of this Court"

And afterwards to wit on the 8th day of May A.D. 1854 the said petitioner executed and filed in said Court his bond as Guardian as aforesaid which is the following words and figures to wit

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The State of Mississippi
Covington County

Know all men by these presents that we Reuben Watts Saml B Hathorn are held and firmly bound unto the State of Mississippi on the penal sum of One thousand Dollars, for the payment of which well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and several firmly by these presents signed and sealed by us the 8th day of May A.D. 1854

The condition of the above obligation is such, That if the above bounden Reuben Watts June as Guardian to Bartlett S. minor heir of George Watts decd of Covington County shall faithfully account with the Probate Court of said County as directed by law for the management of the property and estate of the Orphan under his care, and shall also deliver up the said property, agreeably to the order of said Court, or the directions of law, and shall in all respects, perform the duty of Guardian of the said Bartlett S Watts according to law, then the above obligation shall cease; it shall otherwise remain in full force and virtue in law

Reuben Watts Jr (seal)
S B Hathorn (seal)

"Approved May Term 1854
A. S. Harper
Judge of the Probate Court"

"Filed May 8 A.D. 1854
G. F. Robertson Clerk"

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Proceedings [illegible]
Covington County, State of Mississippi [illegible]
thereof begun and held at the Court [illegible]
on the Second Monday (the 8th day) of May A.D. [illegible]
the Hon^l A. S. Harper Judge of said Probate Court

Be it remembered that heretofore to wit on the [illegible]
March A.D. 1854 R. Watts Jr filed in said Court the [illegible]
petition to wit,

"The State of Mississippi }
Covington County } In Probate Court March Term 1854

To the Honorable A. S. Harper Judge of the Probate Court of said County — the petition of Reuben Watts Jr respectfully shows that he was on the day of January Term A.D. 1849 or 50 by this Honorable court of Probate guardian of the personal estate of Bartlett S. Watts of said County and that he is acting in that capacity that he is bound as such Guardian allthough the Papers belonging to said guardianship was destroyed by fire on the fifth day of November last, your petitioner respectfully prays your honor to allow him to execute new bond as such guardian and that he may perform his duty as such according to law

And as in duty bound &c.

Reuben Watts Jr

"Filed March 15, 1854
G. F. Robertson Clerk"

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# Probate Court records

In the matter of the estate of }
No. 129 George Watts deceased } On consideration of the Application of Rhoda L McDonnis to file a new bond as administratrix of the estate of said decedent and it appearing to the court that the bond heretofore executed by her in this behalf has been destroyed by the burning of the court House; It is ordered that said petitioner execute a new bond as aforesaid upon which the said petitioner executes the same with S B Hathorn and John Watts securities thereto which is approved by the court and ordered to be recorded as a substitute to stand as and for the one destroyed as aforesaid.

A complete record G T Robertson Clerk

Proceedings had and done in the Probate court of Covington County State of Mississippi at a regular Term thereof begun and held according to law at the court house in the Town of Williamsburg on the second Monday being the 8th day of January AD 1855 Before the Honorable A S Harper Judge of the Probate court of said county.

A S Harper Judge of the Probate Court of said County

No 130. Inventory of Substitute Rhoda L McInnis } Be it remembered that on the 9th day of January AD 1855 Rhoda L McInnis filed an inventory as a substitute & as follows to wit.

The State of Mississippi } To the Honorable A S Harper Judge
Covington County } of the Probate Court of said country

The undersigned Administratrix de bonis non of the estate of George Watts deceased report the following notes and effects to wit. One note given by Alex McNair J C McNair & R Watts due March 21st 1831 amounting to $690.00 credited with four hundred dollars May 1st 1834 also a credit of two hundred and fifty dollars May 1st 1832 also a credit of one hundred dollars May the 1st 1834. One note on R Watts for for two hundred and forty dollars due May the 1st 1832 with a credit of $22.62½ May 18th 1832 one note on R Watts and John Watts for 336 due March 10th 1832 with a credit of $21.66 May 1st 1832 also a credit of 50 dollars June 1st 1832 also a credit of $125 by R Watts also a credit of $12 May 1st 1834 by John Watts January 1st 1834 one note on Jeremiah Leggett for $59.05 due January 26th 1834 also a note on Philip Lott for $25 due October 7th 1831 Also one Note on R Watts and James Edmondson for $415 due March 10th 1832 one note on A Lott the above not for $110 effects and all that have come in my hands which respectfully submitted this 9th day of January 1855

Rhoda L McInnis

Sworn to and subscribed in open court January 9th AD 1855 G F Robertson Clk

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No 131 In the matter of [illegible] of the estate of George Watts [illegible] } On examination of the [illegible] estate of decedent Returned by [illegible] Mt Innes Administratrix of said estate, It is ordered that the [illegible] approved and confirmed, and ordered to be recorded as a substitute for one heretofore returned and destroyed by fire.

A complete record G F Robertson Clerk

Proceedings had and done in the Probate Court of Covington County State of Mississippi at a regular Term thereof begun and held according to law at the Court House in the Town of Williamsburg on the second Monday (being the 8th day) of January A D 1855 Before the Honorable A S Harper Judge of Probate for said county.

No 132 M. M. Lott Guardian of Jesse B. Lott } Be it remembered that on the 9th day of January A D 1855 Morgain M. Lott filed an inventory as follows to wit.

A true and correct inventory of the property received from A. C. Powel former Guardian of J. B. Lott

One Negro man and one hundred and sixty three dollars which is all the property that have come in my possession this January 9th 1855. Morgain M Lott Guardian

Sworn to and subscribed in open court January 9th 1855
G F Robertson Clerk

May Term 1855

Court thereupon made the following

Order

"In the matter of the petition of Benjn Keyes admr &c } On consideration of the petition of Benjamin Keyes administrator of the estate of Joshua Keyes decd for sale of the personal estate of said deceased yet remaining unsold — It is ordered by the Court that said administrator proceed to sell the same on a credit of six months from the day of sale And that he give notice of the time and place of sale by posting a notice thereof on the Court house door and two other public places in this County, and the he require note and approved security as the law directs"

And afterwards to wit ~~on~~ the ~~afores~~ 14th day of May A.D. 1855 the said made and returned the following

Report of Sale

"To the Honl A.S. Harper Judge of the Probate Court of Covington County Mississippi }

The undersigned Administrator of the estate of Joshua Keyes deceased, begs leave to report that pursuant to an order of this Court made at the March Term thereof A.D. 1854 for the sale of Certain Mill Rocks and other property of said estate, he did after giving notice thereof according to law, on the 12th day of August A.D. 1854 sell to the highest bidder on a credit of six months from the day of sale all the unsold property of said estate, required to be sold by said order which sale amounted to $58.50 And took notes and security from the purchasers, Account sales is hereto annexed marked Exhibit — All which is respectfully submitted Benjamin Keyes Admr"

"Exhibit A"



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require note and approved security as the law directs"

And afterwards to wit ~~on~~ the ~~[illegible]~~ 14th day of May A.D. 1855 the said made and returned the following

## Report of Sale

"To the Hon. A.S. Harper Judge of the Probate Court of Covington County Mississippi

The undersigned Administrator of the estate of Joshua Keyes deceased, begs leave to report that pursuant to an order of this Court made at the March Term thereof A D 1854 for the sale of Certain Mill Rocks and other property of said estate, he did after giving notice thereof according to law, on the 12th day of August A.D. 1854 sell to the highest bidder on a credit of six months from the day of sale all the unsold property of said estate, required to be sold by said order, which sale amounted to $58.50 and took notes and security from the purchasers, Account sales hereto annexed marked Exhibit - All which is respectfully submitted Benjamin Keyes adm."

## "Exhibit A"

"Account of sales of a portion of the personal estate of Joshua Keyes deceased sold on the 12th day of August A.D. 1854 by Benjamin Keyes adm.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Set Mill Rocks | to | Simon Clark | $ 15 00 |
| 1 Bolting Chest | " | Same | 4 00 |
| Sundries | " | Same | 1 00 |
| Balances | " | Same | 3 00 |
| 1 Gin Head | " | Same | 32 00 |
| 1 Broad Axe | " | Nathaniel Lee | 3 50 |
| | | | $ 58 50 |

"Sworn to in open Court May Term 1854 G.T. Robertson Clk"

"Benjamin Keyes Adm."

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The State of Mississippi
Covington County } Personally appeared in open Court Reuben Watts Jr who being duly sworn says in oath that he posted notices of which the above is a copy in substance at the following places to wit one at the Court house door, one at Mt. Carmel & one at Jaynesville all in said County, And that he believes the same remained so posted for the space of thirty days previous to said sale, all of which statements are made according to his belief and best recollection"

"Sworn to & subscribed in open Court
May 14th 1855 - G. F. Robertson Clerk" } "R. Watts Jr"

And at said May Term 1855 the Court made the following

Order

"In the matter of the estate
of Joshua Keyes decd } On filing the report of Benjamin Keyes admr of said estate:—
It is ordered that said report be and it is hereby approved by the Court, and Confirmed; and ordered to be recorded"

A Complete Record
G. F. Robertson Clerk

[illegible]

[illegible] at the Court house of said County in the Second Monday (the 14th day) of May 1855 before the Hon. A. S. Harper Judge of said County

Be it remembered that on the said 14th day of May A.D. 1855 A. C. Powell filed in said Court the following

## Inventory

"To the Honorable A. S. Harper Judge of the Probate Court of Covington County, Mississippi } The following is a true & perfect Inventory of assets belonging

145 to the estate of Thomas J. Lott deceased, now in the hands of A. C. Powell administrator of said estate to wit.

| | |
|---|---|
| A note on James Edmondson R. Watts & R. Mathison | $795 00 |
| A note on Jesse B. Lott and Joseph McAfee | 20 00 |
| Amount of Cash received at the sale | 6 00 |
| Amount of sales of two bales of Cotton | 57 00 |
| A note on John Watts | 50 00 |
| A note on Thomas Norris | 90 00 |
| | $1018 00 |

The above is made as and for the original Inventory of the personal estate of said deceased as your said administrator believes that all of the records of the Probate Court together with the original inventory were destroyed by fire on the 5th day of November (at night) A.D. 1853 this is given from papers &c now in possession of this administrator, all of the property having been sold & disposed of before said burning

"Sworn to in open Court this 14th day of May A.D. 1855 A. S. Harper Judge" } A. C. Powell Administrator"



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Powell filed in said Court the following

## Inventory

"To the Honorable A. S. Harper Judge of the Probate Court of Covington County, Mississippi } The following is a true & perfect Inventory of Assets belonging to the estate of Thomas J. Lott deceased, now in the hands of A. C. Powell administrator of said estate to wit.

| | |
|---|---|
| A note on James Edmondson R. Watts & R. Mathison | $795 00 |
| A note on Jesse B. Lott and Joseph McAfee | 20 00 |
| Amount of Cash received at the sale | 6 00 |
| Amount of sales of two bales of Cotton | 57 00 |
| A note on John Watts | 50 00 |
| A note on Thomas Norris | 90 00 |
| | $1018 00 |

The above is made as and for the original Inventory of the personal estate of said deceased as your said administrator believes that all of the records of the Probate Court together with the original inventory were destroyed by fire on the 5th day of November (at night) A.D. 1853 this is given from papers &c now in possession of this administrator, all of the property having been sold & disposed of before said burning

"Sworn to in open Court this 14th day of May A.D. 1855 A. S. Harper Judge" } A. C. Powell Administrator"

The Court thereupon made the following

## Order

"In the matter of the Estate of Thos J. Lott deceased } On filing the Inventory this day returned by A. C. Powell admr of said deceased wherein this Court is prayed to admit and receive the same as a substitute for one destroyed in the burning of the Court house:— It is ordered that the same be received approved and confirmed and stand as and for the one destroyed as aforesaid; And that said inventory and the proceedings herein be recorded"

A true Record

C. F. Robertson Clerk

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Probate Court Records

Proceedings had and [illegible] in the Probate court of Covington County State of Mississippi at the Court House of Said County on the second monday of July A D 1855 being the 9th day of said month, before the Hon^l A. S. Harper Judge of Probate for said County

Be it remembered that on the 14th day of May 1855 James Smith Guardian of Nancy Watts Filed in Said court the following

146 Annual Account

The State of Mississippi Covington County May the 14th 1855

To the Hon^l A. S. Harper Judge of the Probate Court of Covington County

The 3rd Annual report of James Smith Guardian of Nancy Watts Shows that he charges himself with the receipt of the following amount on account of his ward and that he prays an allowance for the following amount of articles furnished his ward up to the 1rst day of January 1855

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| March 1854 Received of R Watts Sr | $12.50 | Febry 3rd 1854 | 1 ½ yds Muslin | @ 4 | $.75 |
| Sum Received of Thos H Watts admr | 12.50 | " 3 yds Lace | | 10 | .30 |
| | 25.00 | " 2 " Calico | | 19 | .38 |
| | 18.99 | " 1 Muslindelane Dress | | " | 3.50 |
| Ballance on hand | 6.01 | July 8th 3 yds Ribbon | | 7 | 2.63 |
| | 5.46 | 4 " Domestic | | 20 | .80 |
| Ballance in hand as pr last report | | January 16th 1 pr Shoes | | 8 | 1.00 |
| | 7.34½ | March 13. 8 yds Calico | | | 1.50 |
| Ballance at January 1rst 1855 | | " 28. 1 Bunch Hair pins | | | .15 |
| | 12.80½ | May 2nd 1 pr Shoes | | 12 | 1.50 |
| | | 1 paper Pins | | | .10 |
| | | July 11th 1 Silk Bonnet | | | 5.00 |

on the 14 day of May 1855 James Smith Guardian of Nancy Watts Filed in Said court the following

46 Annual Account

The State of Mississippi Covington County May the 14th 1855

To the Hon. A. S. Harper Judge of the Probate Court of Covington County

The 3rd Annual report of James Smith Guardian of Nancy Watts Shows that he charges himself with the receipt of the following amount on account of his ward and that he prays an allowance for the following amount of articles furnished his ward up to the 1rst day of January 1855

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| March 1854 Received of R Watts Sen | $12.50 | | Febry 3rd 1854 1 pr yds Muslin | @ 4 p | .75 | |
| June Received of Thos H Watts adm | 12.50 | | " 3 yds Lace | 10 p | .30 | |
| | 25.00 | | " 2 " Calico | 19 p | .38 | |
| | 18.99 | | " 1 Muslindelane dress | " | 3.50 | 43 |
| Ballance on hand | 6.01 | | July 8th 3 yds Ribbon | 7 p | 2.63 | |
| | 5.55 | | 4 " Domestic | 20 p | .80 | |
| | 5.46 | | January 16th 1 pr Shoes | 8 p | 1.00 | |
| Ballance in hand as pr last report | 7.34½ | | March 13. 8 yds Calico | | 1.50 | |
| Ballance at January 1rst 1855 | 12.80½ | | " 28. 1 Bunch Hair pins | | .15 | |
| | | | May 2nd 1 pr Shoes | 12 p | 1.50 | |
| | | | 1 paper Pins | | .10 | 76 |
| | | | July 11th 1 Silk Bonnet | | 5.00 | |
| | | | Octr 23rd 1 pr Shoes | | 1.38 | 63 |
| | | | 1 " Hoes | | | 3 |
| | | | 1 Oz Indigo | 2 p | | 2 |

James Smith Guardian

Filed May the 14th 1855

G. F. Robertson clk

On Filing the foregoing annual account the Court thereupon made the following

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Order

In the matter of the guardianship of Nancy Watts

146 Ordered that the annual account of James Smith Guardian of said minor be received and filed and lie over until the next term of this Court

and afterwards to wit at the July term A D 1855 the court made the following

Order

In the matter of the annual account of James Smith
4 6 Guardian of Nancy Watts a minor heir of John Watts deceased

The Said annual account of James Smith Guardian of Said Nancy coming on for final audition and allowance and the Court on examination thereof being satisfied the same is correct It is ordered adjudged and decreed that said annual account be approved allowed and recorded

A true record

C. H. Robertson Clk

---

Proceedings had and done in the Probate Court of Covington County State of Mississippi at the Court House of Said County on the Second Monday it being the 9th day of July A D 1855 before the Hon A S Harper Judge of Probate for Said County

Be it remembered that heretofore to wit that on the 14th day of may A D 1855 James A Stubbs filed in said Court the following

Petition

146 In the matter of the annual account of James Smith Guardian of Nancy Watts a minor heir of John Watts deceased

The Said annual account of James Smith Guardian of Said Nancy coming on for final audition and allowance and the Court on examination thereof being satisfied the same is correct It is ordered adjudged and decreed that Said annual account be approved allowed and recorded

~~A true record~~

C. F. Robertson Clk

---

Proceedings had and done in the Probate Court of Covington County State of Mississippi at the Court House of Said County on the Second Monday it being the 9th day of July A D 1855 before the Hon A. S. Harper Judge of Probate for Said County

Be it remembered that heretofore to wit that on the 14th day of may A D 1855 James A Stubbs filed in Said Court the following

Petition

147 To the Honorable A. S. Harper Judge of the Probate Court of Covington County in the State of Mississippi

The Petition of James A Stubbs of Said County Shows that on the 11th day of October A D 1854 he purchased from Archibald Anderson late of Said County the following described tracts of land lying in Said County to wit South East Quarter of Sec No 25 of Township No nine in Range No 18 upon 160 acres more or less the South half S E ¼ also the half of the S W ¼ of S W ¼ of Sec 25. 33 of Range 18 E

7 Probate Court Records

S.W. 1/2 of N.E. 1/4 of Sec 36 Township No 9 of Range 18 W. S.W. 1/4 of S.W. 1/4 of Sec 30 Township 9 Range 17 also a tract described as follows to wit beginning at a pine tree on the Range line dividing Range 17 and 18 and from Said pine Running 10 chains South from the corner of Section 36 and 31 then East 20 chains then North 10 chains to the line of Said Section 31 then West with the line of Section 31 and 36 Sixty chains then South 70 chains to a corner then direct to the beginning Containing 45 acres five acres of which is in Section 31 Township 9 of Range 17 and 40 acres in Section 36 of Township 9 of 18 West, also the E 1/2 of N.W. 1/4 of Sec 36 in Township 9, Range 18 West. Containing in all Four Hundred and Twenty acres That Your Petitioner when he made Said purchase Contracted to pay Said Archibald Anderson the Sum of Six Hundred dollars in Six equal instalments the last note becoming due on the first day of January 1850 and that the Said Anderson on his part agreed Covenanted and undertook to make Your Petitioner a deed of Conveyance with Covenants of Seizin and general Warranty of Said land when the said promissory note last becoming due with other installments should be paid or Satisfied to Your Petitioner and bound himself in the penalty of Twelve hundred dollars to the performance of Said contract and undertaking which Said contract and Bond are herewith Submitted to your Honor and prayed to be made a part of this petition.

And this petition further Shows that on the day of the Mority of Said notes to wit, on the first day of January 1850 Your petitioner paid the Said Sum of Six Hundred dollars and

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of Section 31 and 36 thirty chains thence
70 chains to a corner then direct to the beginning
Containing 45 acres five acres of which is in
Section 31 Township 9 Range 17 and 40 acres
in Section 36 of Township 9 Range 18 West also the E½
of N.W¼ of Sec 36 in Township 9 Range 18 West
Containing in all Four Hundred and Twenty acres
That Your Petitioner when he made said purchase
contracted to pay said Archibald Anderson the sum
of Six Hundred dollars in six equal installments
the last note becoming due on the first day of
January 1850 and that the said Anderson on
his part agreed covenanted and undertook to
make Your Petitioner a deed of conveyance with
~~covenants of seizin and general warranty of~~
said land when the said promissory note last
becoming due with other installments should be
paid or satisfied to Your Petitioner and bound
himself in the penalty of Twelve hundred dollars
~~to the performance of said contract~~ and undertaking which said contract and Bond are
herewith submitted to your Honor and prayed
to be made a part of this petition.

And this petition further shows that on the day
of the maturity of said notes to wit, on the
first day of January 1850 Your petitioner
paid the said sum of Six Hundred Dollars and
said promissory notes which are herewith exhibited was thereupon cancelled but that the said
Archibald Anderson did not make and execute
nor has he to this day made and executed said
deed of conveyance of said tracts of land as
he had undertook to do as aforesaid and that
your petitioner although he has fully paid
for said land as contracted by him is without
any title thereon, and this petitioner further
represents that some time in the month
of 18 last and after the payment
of said promissory notes as aforesaid
the said Archibald Anderson died



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And on the filing of the said Report the Court made the following

## Order

"In the matter of the petition of R. Watts Jr Admr de bonis non of the Estate of Thomas Watts Jr decd to Compromise Copartnership transactions between said decedent and Moses Pfeifer

On filing and considering of the Report of said Admr, it appearing that said Compromise has been fully made and completed and that from said Report it appears that the ~~said~~ Co-partnership transactions amount to the sum of Twelve hundred and thirty-two dollars & 38½ cts and that the one half ~~belongs to~~ of said amount belongs to and is part of the estate of said decedent to wit the sum of Six hundred and sixteen dollars & 19 Cents

It is ordered adjudged and decreed that said Reuben Watts Jr admr as aforesaid charge himself with the sum last aforesaid to be considered assets in his hands so far as the same can be made available on due diligence and exertions on his part in collecting the claims belonging to said Co-partnership business

And it is further ordered that said Report be received, approved and confirmed by the Court as a final settlement of said Co-partnership transactions between said Pfeifer and said Admr, — And that said Report be recorded"

A true Record
G. F. Robertson Clk

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[illegible]
of his [illegible]
granted to one John E McFrair who is now
acting as such as your petitioner is informed
all of which will fully appear to your honor
by reference to the records of this honorable
court

Your petitioner for relief in the premises
therefore prays that this honorable court
will interfere in this behalf and in pursuance
of the Statute order the said John E McFrair
to make a title to your petitioner of said lands
agreeably to said agreement and bond of
said intestate and that it may please
your Honor to cause such process to be issued
direct such notices to be given and such
orders to be made as may be deemed nece
ssary and proper by your Honor in the premises
And your petitioner as in duty bound &c

James A Stubbs

On filing said pitition the court made
the following

Order

James A Stubbs
v
Archd Anderson deceased
Admr Stralor

on filing and
Consideration of the
petition of James A Stubbs
praying that a
citation issue for J E McFrair admr of
said estate to appear at the next Term
of this Court & show cause why he should
not make titles to the lands in said petition
it is ordered that the same issue returnable
as aforesaid
and afterwards to wit on the 16th day of

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Your petitioner for relief in the premises therefore prays that this honorable court will interfere in this behalf and in pursuance of the Statute order the said John E McNair to make a title to your petitioner of said lands agreeably to said agreement and bond of said intestate and that it may please your Honor to cause such process to be issued direct such notices to be given and such orders to be made as may be deemed necessary and proper by your Honor in the premises And your petitioner as in duty bound &c

James A Stubbs

On filing said pitition the court made the following

Order

James A Stubbs
v
Archd Anderson deceased
Admr Administrator

on filing and Consideration of the petition of James A Stubbs praying that a citation issue for J. E McNair admr of said estate to appear at the next Term of this Court & show cause why he should not make titles to the lands in said petition it is ordered that the same issue returnable as aforesaid

and afterwards to wit on the 16th day of June 1855 there was issued the following

Citation

The State of Mississippi
Covington County
Greeting

To the Sheriff of Simpson County

We command you to cite J. E. McNair administrator of the estate of Archibald Anderson deceased to be and appear before our Probate court of said Covington County at the court house thereof on the second monday of July nex to answer the petition of James A Stubbs and show cause why he should not make [illegible]

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and thereafter to wit, on the 7th day of July 1855 was filed the following answer

To the Honorable J. S. Harper Judge of the Probate Court of Covington County } The undersigned administrator of the estate of Archibald Anderson deceased in answer to the Petition of James A. Stubbs, that he believes what is stated and alleged in the said petition of said J. A. Stubbs is true so far as he said administrator is advised of the facts therein contained and administrator for further answer says that he is willing to abide the order of this honorable Court and make title to said petitioner if the Court so orders. Respectfully Submitted John E. McNair adm. of the estate of A. Anderson dec.

148 "James A. Stubbs
v.
John E. McNair adm. of Archibald Anderson dec.

} In the matter of the petition of said Complainant for title to certain lands purchased by him of decedent in his life time

This cause coming on for hearing, on the returns of the citation issued and served on the said adm.; as directed at the last term of this Court, & the Court having fully considered the allegations in said petition contained & the answer this day filed by the said defendant; and being satisfied that said Complainant, did purchase of the said Archibald Anderson dec. in the lifetime of said deceased, the land described in said petition, & that said decedent said under his bond to the said petitioner, to execute a title to him, on payment of the sum due for said land. And it now appearing to the satisfaction of this Court that according to the stipulations of said bond the said John E. McNair adm. of the estate of said Archibald Anderson dec. should execute a good title to the said Stubbs for the said land. It is therefore ordered, and the Court doth hereby order, adjudge and decree that said John E. McNair adm. as aforesaid make a good and valid title for said land to the said James A. Stubbs. And it is further ordered that said petition and proceedings thereon be recorded."

A True Record
[illegible]



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Applewhite, Precilla Scougcans and the nine children of my son, John P., & his wife Sally: Elias Amanuel, William Pinkney, Francis Marion, George Washington, Sarah Ann Graves, Mary Ann, Martha Ann, Elizabeth & Elmina. Ex'r: Thomas Allen, M.E. Carter & William Barnes. Wit: M.E. Carter, John Martin & Zarry Martin. John L. Hargrove, Clerk, March 24, 1848.

(69) Inventory of James Welch, Ex'r of Caleb Hill's estate. Negroes: Lewis & Edmund. Wit: James Reddick, John Knight & Zabud Duckworth.

(71) Court vs Hugh McFarland, guardian of Nancy E., Catherine J. & John W., minor heirs of Duncan McLaurin, because no papers or bonds have been filed.

(72) Alexander McLeod, John L. Hargroves & Hugh A. McLeod post bond 8th May 1844. Alexander McLeod, guardian of Daniel, minor heir of Angus McInnis.

(73) Petition of Reuben Watts Jr. who was made guardian of Bartlett S. Watts in 1849-50, minor heir of George Watts. Reuben Watts & Sam. B. Hathorn post bond

(75) Petition of Samuel B. Hathorn. Joshua R. White died intestate in March 1854 leaving a widow, Jane, and sons, Joshua R. Jr. & Thomas R. White. Samuel B. Hathorn, Thomas R. White & Martin Faler post bond. Hiram Gregory, Martin Faler & Joseph Bridges appointed appraisers.

(77) William Simmons, Sheriff of Perry Co., is ordered to summon Hiram Hathorn, guardian of Diza Hathorn minor heir of Susan Hathorn, to this Court. Hiram Hathorn, Sam B. Hathorn & Thomas Loflin post bond. Negro Sarah 18, property of Diza Hathorn.

(80) R. Watts Jr., Sheriff, is ordered to summon William Dossett, guardian of the minor heirs of Alexander McCraney, to this Court. William Dossett, James Leggett & Charles M. Edmondson post bond. Heirs: Alexander, Mary & Adeline.

(82) Hugh McFarland, Adm'r of Duncan McLaurin's estate. Inventory made in Jan. 1851 by Roderick McCraney, William Leggett & Abram Lott. Negroes: Henry 34 Vince 12, Simson 10, Green 8, Letus 2, Charity 25 & Agnes 9...etc. Buyers:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jas. Edmondson | John McCraney | Phillip Lott | Alex. L. Fairley |
| H.H. McComb | Jas. Smith | Daniel McLaurin | Thomas Watts Jr. |
| Neill McInnis | James Williamson | William Lott | Hiram Hathorn |
| John Jones | L. McFarland | David L. Myers | James Leggett |
| John McDonald | Joseph S. Gregg | John Sanford | John Graham |
| Cornelius L. Mixon | Joel E. Welborn | Albert Watts | James Jones |
| A.L. Hatten | J.B. Read | Edwin Dossett | Samuel Grantham |
| William Hammond | D.G. Bullock | R.W. Watts | Allen Bryant |
| John D. Kelly | W.H. Graham | W.H. Graham | Daniel M. Carter |
| John C. Foster | Jeremiah Leggett | M. Gillis | W. Weldy |
| Mrs. D. McLaurin | A. Jackson | Charles Edmondson | Burton Stafford |
| Calvin Lott | R. Granberry | G.W. Lott | J.R. White |
| G.W. Rawls | A.R. Granberry | Mrs. H. Walters | |

Shim Lowry bought his plantation. Daniel McKinnon bought the adjoining land

Notes due the estate

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A.L. Hatten | A.R. Graves | S.J.M. Bulloch & Mrs. Hatten | S. Lowry |
| William Lott | John McCraney | Roderick McCraney | Mrs. P. Watts |
| William McKinnon | A.C. Rose | R. & John Watts Sr. | |

drick Pope, John McRaney & Hugh A. McLeod as appraisers. January Term 1855

(248) Petition of Jesse B. Lott, a minor of more that 14 years & son of Simon Lott dec'd, says that A.C. Powell has been acting as his guardian, but that he would like his brother, Morgan M. Lott, to be his guardian. Morgan M. Lott, John McRaney & D.C. McKenzie post bond. January Term 1955

(250) J.L. Hargroves states that Zana Lowe, dec'd, owned a negro named Isaac age 23. Wit: Tom R. White & William L. Speed. H. Gregory, T.R. White & W.L. Speed are ordered to appraise the negro. January Term 1855

(252) Rhoda L. McInnis, was made the Adm'rx of George Watts' estate Jan. 9, 1845. Rhoda L. McInnis, Samuel B. Hathorn & John Watts post bond. Notes due:
Alex McNair, J.E. McNair & John Watts due March 21, 1831.
R. Watts Jr. due May 1, 1832. R. Watts & John Watts due Mar.10, 1832
Jeremiah Leggett due Jan. 26, 1834 Phillip Lott due Oct. 7, 1831.
R. Watts & James Edmondson due Mar. 1832 A. Lott refiled Jan. Term 1855

(255) Estate of Silas Bulloch. Wm. Leggett, Albert Watts & Martin McNair are ordered to appraise the estate. D.G. Bulloch, Adm'r, asks to sell the estate. Buyers: John Page, Redmon Carter, Jessy Bulloch, Allen Smith & Sidney Bulloch.

(261) On Jan. 9, 1855 Kiddy Burkhalter, widow of Jones Burkhalter, filed a petition for dower. Land: NW4 NW4 sec.4 T7 & NE4, NE4 SE4 sec.5 T7 & SW4 sec.33 T8 R16W & property in the town of Williamsburg. T.R. White, Laughton Davis & G.F. Robertson appointed Commissioners. 1/3 dower allotted: S2 NE4, NE4 SE4 sec.5 T7N R16W which includes the residence & out houses. (map shown)

(266) Petition by Absalom A. Sheppard, Adm'r de bonis non of Arthur Dees' estate, refiles the information that David Price bought the real estate & that a final account was filed Sept. Term 1853. A.A. Sheppard, Daniel Price & John Watts post bond. James Dease, heir, ordered to appear. Wit: Henry Foals, J.P.

(270) Petition by William Pinckney Allen, heir of John Allen Sr., dec'd, filed March 12, 1855 states that he has reached the age of 21. M.E. Carter is one of the Ex'rs.

(271) Edward Vanzandt, Adm'r of J.H. Vanzandt's estate, asks for more time.

(272) Petition of William C. Boothe, heir of Stephen Boothe who died three years ago intestate, is now age 21 and wants his part of the estate. Citations issued to: Susan Boothe, widow; Mary & John Ford; Jane & T. McGruder Bryant; Abram A., Susan V., Elijah & James L. Boothe and to Ransom E. Boothe of Jones Co Thomas R. White, William Worthy in place of J.H. Vanzandt who has died & M.E. Carter Sr. appointed Commissioners to divide the slaves into 9 shares. ie:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Widow Susan, Nancy | Ransom E., Martha | Susan V., Moses | Elijah, Philis |
| Mary Ford, John | J.L., Rhoda | Jane Bryant, Jack | A.A., Marion |
| Wm. C., Amanda | Wit: Joshua Burkhalter Jr. J.P. | | |

(281) John L. Hargrove, Adm'r of the estate of Zana Lowe. She left siblings: this petitioner, Rosannah & Daniel Loflin, Nancy & James W. Price of Rankin Co.; Daniel B., Henry B. & Tamar Lowe. Benjamin B. Barnes, guardian of Henry & Tamar in right of his wife. Negro Isaac is to be sold and the proceeds divided.

Elam Stokes says that he posted notices on the door of the Courthouse, on the door of the postoffice at Zion Seminary and at Laughton Davis' mill.

(287) T.R. White, Adm'r of Joshua White's estate vs S.B. Hathorn, Adm'r of Wm. H. Thomas' estate. The deceased had purchased the property of the widow of Wm. H. Thomas. A year's worth of widow's provisions have not been paid to Mrs. Thomas or to Mrs. White. Joshua Burkhalter Jr., G.F. Robertson & D.G. Bullock are appointed Commissioners to set aside Mrs. Rhoda Thomas' part. Feb. 1855

(290) Joshua Burkhalter Jr. & Kiddy Burkhalter are allowed to delay the settling of Jones Burkhalter's estate until next December 24th in order to hire out some slaves for income. Perry hired out to William L. Speed. March Term 1855

(294) Petition of Reuben Watts, Adm'r de bonus non in place of Thomas L. Watts. Thomas Watts Jr. & Moses Pfiefer were partners in a merchantile business Reuben Watts wants Thomas' part settled. May Term 1855

(298) Petition of Rhoda L. McInnis, Adm'rx of George Watt's estate, is now ready for the distribution to: Bartlett S. Watts, Barbara wife of Wm. M. Coulter George Ann wife of Wiley Coulter, and herself the widow. Notes due:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Reuben & John Watts | Watts & Edmundson | J.E. McNair | Phillip Lott |
| Wm. Leggett | James Smith | Reuben Watts Jr. | Mr. Aultmon |

Expenses paid to:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pfiefer & White | Faler & Storm | M. Pfiefer | R. Watts Jr. |
| J.A. Graham | M. Eagan | Judges Pope & Napier | Clerk Robertson |
| R. Watts Jr., guardian of B.S. Watts | | W.M. & Wiley Coulter | |

Bartlett S. Watts, William M. Coulter & Wiley Coulter sign a release saying that they have received their share of the estate. May Term 1855

(301) Benj. Keys, Adm'r of Joshua Key's estate, filed a petition March 14, 1854 saying that there was a Gin Stand and a pair of Mill Rocks that had not been sold. Simeon Clark has bought the Mill Rocks and other sundries, and Nathaniel Lee bought a broad axe at the Aug. 12, 1854 sale.

(304) Inventory of Thomas J. Lott's estate. Notes on: James Edmundson, R. Watts & Joseph McAfee; on Jesse B. Lott & Joseph McAfee; on John Watts; & on Thomas Norris. A.C. Powell, Adm'r. May Court 1855

(305) James Smith, guardian of Nancy Watts, minor heir of John Watts, dec'd, files his 3rd annual report. July Term 1855

(306) James A. Stubbs states that on Oct. 10, 1842 he purchased a tract of land from Archibald Anderson, late of this county. SE4, 160a & S2 SE4, SE4 SW4 sec.25 & SW4 NE4 sec.36 T9N R18W & SW4 SW4 sec.30 T9 R17W & 45a described in sec.31 T9 R17W & 40a in sec.36 T9 R18W & E2 NW4 sec.36 T9 R18W, 420a in all. He paid in installments with the last note becoming due Jan. 1, 1850 which he paid. He has not yet received his deed. Archibald Anderson died intestate with John E. McNair as the Adm'r. The Sheriff of Simpson Co. is ordered to cite J.E. McNair to appear in Court and to give Mr. Stubbs his deed. July Term 1855

(310) Annual account of William Loflin, guardian of Nancy M. Ragland, a non compus mentis. July Term 1855

WATTS FILE

Copy

## From yesterday

rasion is
ly fighting
ur Boy Gives
00 per cent
w about your
ond buying?
FIGURE IT OUT YOURSELF

The Chronicle
COMBINED WITH
THE MOSS POINT ADVERTISER.

OL. 98 Member The Associated Press PASCAGOULA AND MOSS POINT, MISSISSIPPI FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1943

# County Fails To Reach War Fund Quota On Deadline; Drive Continues This Week

Although failing to reach its quota on November 5, deadline for the completion of the War Fund Drive, indications were that Jackson County county would pass its quota by Saturday of this week, A. F. Megehee, county chairman, said.

Total funds in hand late Thursday amounted to $18,012.44, which is $296.78 below the county's quota of $18,300. However, additional donations were expected to swell this figure well beyond the quota, Mr. Megehee said.

A partial breakdown of the donations follows:

Moss Point area, E. V. Suthoff, chairman: House to house canvass of women's committee under Mrs. W. H. Nelson, Jr., as chairman, $873.86; business establishments, Claude Blanchard, chair-

## *Alton Watts, Son Of Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Watts, Missing*

Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Watts, Sr., of Pascagoula, have received word that their younger son, Alton, is among the missing. The telegram arrived Friday night, and was from the War Department, and stated that further details would follow.

The missing seaman was a machinist mate and when last heard from was on one of the larger boats of the fleet. He is a veteran of the seas having been in the Navy for about four years.

He attended the Pascagoula schools.

He is a member of one of the oldest families of the city.

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THE MOSS POINT ADVERTISER.
PASCAGOULA AND MOSS POINT, MISSISSIPPI—FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1944
Member National Editorial

# ...ond Quota ...bor Attack

## ...loyees Warned ...le Exemption By December 1

...mployees are reminded ... Collector of Internal Rev... ...t Mississippi District ... Withholding Exemp... ...Certificates with their em... ...by December 1.

...ned by the new indi... ...Income Tax of 1944, these ...ms will list their em... ...exemptions and will aid ...ing the amount of income ...withhold from wages un... ...new withholding tables ...come effective on Jan...

## ...ent Decision ...ses 150 Men ...eave Yard

...sult of the recent work ...volving 550 electricians ...by sub-contractors at ... approximatley 150 ...of Department 17 of ...ls Shipbuilding were ...the yard late Thursday ...special meeting held ...

...are out of the yard ...side machinists, weld... ...ers who work with ...craft in the installa... ...Heavy machinery and ... The specials meet... ...called by them to discuss ...ials matters after the ...kers insisted upon ...work which has been ...Department 17 for ...years.

...ians involved in the ...dispute belonged to sec... ...the month returned ...ing arbitration be... ...tatives of the Na... ...Contractors As... ...the International ...Electrical Work... ...commendations hand... ...approved by Local ...IBEW, of Pasca... ...trical sub-con... ...decision ...diction to and called ...by IBEW of all ...performed by the ...and burning ...further specta... ...IBEW ...

## Circus To Show In Pascagoula Tuesday Afternoon And Night

...cowboys, cowgirls, trained ...horses, mules and ponies, as well as ...other circus acts will be ...in the Bradley and ...Circus and rodeo in a ...

VETERAN OF MANY AMPHIBIOUS operations, along the tough road back from the Solomons to the Philippines, the Coast Guard-manned LST-18, known as the "Old 18" is right on the job again at Leyte Island, as the photo shows. In the foreground, sandbags for beach gun emplacements are being readied while more men and supplies for the battle of the Central Philippines pour off the famous ship. In the background is the LST-202, which also has a proud invasion record. U. S. Coast Guard photo. (International)

# To Lay Plans For Raising Additional Recreation Funds At Meeting Monday

A mass meeting of all interested citizens and heads of civic and business organizations has been called for 8 p.m. Monday at the High school auditorium to consider means of raising additional funds for the Pascagoula Recreation Program, Thomas R. Wells, chairman of the city recreation commission, announced Thursday.

The mass meeting was called following sessions of the city commission held this week. Although no official figures are yet available on the amount of money raised for the recreation program during the recent combined War and Recreation Fund drive, indications are that it will be necessary to raise approximately $7,000 to $8,000 more.

The city's priority on the program has been extended by the government to January 2. It was originally scheduled to expire on December 2.

Under the program the Federal government will make available to the city $117,000, to which will be added the city's share of $63,000, to bring the total cost to $180,000 and give Pascagoula probably the most comprehensive program of any city in the state.

"I cannot overemphasize the importance of all interested parties attending the meeting Monday night," Mr. Wells said.

## Alton John Watts Officially Listed Among The Missing

Alton John Watts, motor machinist's mate first class, has been officially listed among the missing, according to a letter received last week by Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie L. Watts, Sr. of Pascagoula, from the Navy department at Washington.

On November 5, 1943, Mr. and Mrs. Watts received a telegram from Washington telling them that their son had been missing since November 2. And as he has not yet been heard from, following the custom in such cases, after a year's wait, the official notification was sent to them.

As the engagement in which Watts was lost was around Bougainville, the family has never given up the hope that he will be found on one of the many islands there, when the Japs are finally driven out.

Watts enlisted in the Navy in 1939. He has a brother, Lonnie L. Watts, Jr. who is in the Naval Reserve, and is based at San Diego.

Mayor-elect John R. Watts is an uncle of the missing sailor.

## Entertainment Group Makes Further Plans

Further steps toward securing a new type of entertainment for the Pascagoula-Moss Point area were taken when the organization committee of Entertainment, Inc. held a meeting at the USO ...

## T. B. Seals Go On Sale Monday, Mrs. McIlwain Reminds

Mrs. S. B. McIlwain, president of Jackson county Tuberculosis Association, today announced that the annual sale of Christmas Seals will begin next Monday.

It was stated that official health agencies have urged the local association to intensify its programs of X-ray examinations, education and other means of combating tuberculosis, which even since Pearl Harbor has claimed more American lives than the war itself.

Everyone will be asked to buy and use the little Christmas stickers so that this important health work may be increased during the coming year.

## Governors To Be Guests Of Ingalls Sunday Morning

Southern governors who attended their annual convention in Biloxi this week-end will be guests of the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation Sunday for breakfast and a tour of the shipyard.

They, with their wives, secretaries, members of the press and state guard will comprise party of about 60 which is expected to arrive in Pascagoula about 9:30 Sunday morning. Breakfast will be served at the Longfellow House after which they will be taken to the yard. R. R. Ingalls, Sr., chairman of the Board of the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation and R. R. Ingalls, Jr., vice-chairman of the board will be present to act as hosts.

The theme of the conference will deal with post war problems ...

# Grand Jury In... Five Day Sessi... Trial Schedule...

Court Recesses For... Beginning Final Week... Numerous Cases Sche...

## Moss Point Rotary Entertains Hurley Group At Dinner

The "get acquainted" program of the Moss Point Rotary club was inaugurated Tuesday night when men of the Hurley Community were guests of the Rotarians at a dinner at the Hurley Community House.

The dinner grew out of an idea conceived by W. B. Herring for the promotion of better understanding between rural and urban residents and the development of means of livlihood which would make the rural sections independent. Each Rotarian had as his guest a man living in that section of the county.

Long tables were arranged in the auditorium and colorful centerpieces of autumn fruits and vegetables with evergreens and bright berries were used. The meal was prepared and served by a committee headed by Mrs. A. C. Pedersen.

The basis of the plan for increased and new production by the farmers as outlined by Mr. Herring is the opening of new fields of production in the rural areas backed by a revolving fund of about $25,000 which would be used to supplement in loans, the money required by the farmer to set up his new enterprise.

"A man's heart is where his money is," he explained, "so it would be advisable for the man involved to furnish a part of the financing needed. In addition to providing additional funds for the farmers the fund would also be used to assist co-operatively provide for sending to Mississippi State College deserving boys and girls for scientific training. There would be an understanding that the boy or girl would return to this county to [illegible] and in that way we would have several men and women trained in farming methods.

Urging that [illegible] be taken of production [illegible] county, Mr. Herring [illegible] against bringing [illegible] against bringing [illegible] plant and [illegible] the opinion that [illegible] climate [illegible]

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# Life IN THE PARKWAY

STAFF PHOTO BY REY BANÓGON

**Ted Mattola, the host of this weekend's reunion for the USS Foote, has a room in his Roslindale home devoted to pictures of the ship which he shared with 325 other men for almost three years.**

# A return to the sea

## World War II shipmates to hold reunion on a ship like they'd fought on in the war

**By Don Seiffert**
STAFF WRITER

They are among the dwindling numbers of soldiers who fought for America more

life helping to organize the reunions of the crew of the USS Foote. The former seaman first class says that ever since the USS Foote came to port for the last time in New York City in 1945, he had always hoped to be reunited with his shipmates.

One cold morning in January 1983, he received a phone call out of the blue, and was asked if he was the same Ted Mottola who had been aboard the Foote in WWII. He said

sorry.'" He attended the reunion along with about 1,500 veterans. Patsos has since undergone chemotherapy for lung cancer, however, and said he will not be able to take part in the turnaround this Sunday of the USS Cassin Young.

The veterans say that every year, fewer of the original crew members are able to come to the annual reunions that have been held since 1983. Where once crewmates were lost in the combat of war, today, in-

October 6, 1999 **Parkway and West Roxbury Transcripts**, page 1

# WWII shipmates reunite

**VETERANS,** *from page 12*

until 3 in the morning."

"She knows more about it than me," Mattola admits. Chalmers said that the stories inspired a strong sense of history in many of the veterans' families.

"It gave me a great sense of patriotism, so much more than some of these people today," she said. She said that growing up in the 1960s, she had a "tough time" witnessing the flag burnings and other war protests of the time.

The stories are a compelling memory that few younger generations share. Patsos recounted the story of a night when he narrowly avoided Navy discipline, the details of which weren't fully known until decades later. He was testing the mechanisms that release depth charges aboard the USS Foote when he accidentally pushed a trigger button twice, dropping a bomb when there were no enemies around.

"No one knew what had happened," he said of the accident, which caused a bomb to explode in the water when no enemies were around, and prompted an investigation to determine what caused the explosion. Patsos said he fully expected to be sent to the ship's jail for his mistake. "I was

During the early morning on Nov 3, 1943, the destroyer was hit by a Japanese torpedo that took off the stern of the boat, killing 19 of the 32 crewmen. Finger's best friend "Micks," who had been on board jus a short time, was one of those men.

"The part the got me the most," Finger said in the videotaped interview, "was Mick was wrapped up i the flag when he died." He said tha the morning after the torpedo hit, h saw Micks had fallen across the torpe do tubes which he had manned.

Visibly upset by the telling of th story, Finger, after a few minutes goes on to say that the reunions brin out long-buried feelings from the wa

"It seems strange that you can ge emotional after 50 years, but you g around your old shipmates and I can' help it. There's many stories, an that's the best of them," he said.

By wartime standards, the crew men remember the ship as, above al lucky.

"The Foote, I think, was a very spe cial ship, and this is almost my secon family," said Patsos of the people at th reunion, adding, "Not almost. It is."

Mattola, too, says that the shi somehow escaped the Kamikaze pi lots who steered their planes into sui

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# EGAL NOTICE

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**Dedham Annual Town Meeting of April 12, 1999 — Case**

**Warrant Article #24 (General)**

Pacheco,

amendments to the town by-laws adopted under Article warrant for the Dedham town meeting that convened on 999, with the approval of this Office.

Yours truly,

THOMAS F. REILLY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

by: Kelli E. Lawrence
Assistant Attorney General
Municipal Law Unit

wn Meeting, April 12, 1999 (7:00 P.M.)

TWENTY-FOUR: *By the Conservation Commission.* To see will vote to amend Chapter 28 (Wetlands Protection By- Revised By-Laws as follows:

Add the following subsection paragraph under 2 as part of the definition of the term "alter":

Any work within 200 feet of any river as defined in husetts Rivers Act of 1996, as may be amended from time

Amend Section 3.a by adding "and areas within 200 waterbody which meets the definition of a "river" under husetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, er "aforesaid resource areas" and deleting the word "and" word "lands." The amended subsection will read as fol-

) Except as permitted by the Conservation Commis- ing the filing of the appropriate application, or as pro- is bylaw, no person shall remove, fill, dredge, build upon, scharge into or otherwise alter the following resource ar- shwater wetland; marshes; wet meadows; bogs; swamps; s; banks; reservoirs; lakes; ponds; streams; creeks; beaches; r waterbodies; lands subject to flooding or inundation by er or surface water (collectively the "resource areas pro- is bylaw" listed in this section); lands within 100 feet of aforesaid resource areas; and areas within 200 feet of any which meets the definition of a "river" under the Massa- etlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40. Said re- s need not border surface waters in order to qualify for

Amend Section 17.b. by adding the following sub- include fees for review of wetlands delineations, said fees sed where the Commission, in its discretion, determines ation is necessary:

Wetland Delineation and Delineation Review... $0.50 per linear foot of resource area delineated, to a maximum of $100.00 per single

*(From left): Shipmates Ted Mottola, Frank Nelson, John Connolly and Bill Patsos in Boston's North End during a 1998 "mini-reunion."*

# World War II shipmates will hold reunion at Dedham Hilton

*contributed by Marie Chalmers*

The crew of the World War II, Fletcher Class Destroyer the *U.S.S. Foote* is coming to Dedham.

The group will come from all over the United States to relive the victories, honor those who were lost in battle and remember those who have died since. Old sea stories will be told, and the crew will remember the experiences of their ship and the war of their youth.

Their reunion will take place at the Hilton at Dedham Place next weekend, Oct. 7-11, 1999. Crew members will be joined by four generations of their family members, all part of the extended *Foote* family that has been getting together for the past 16 years.

The *U.S.S. Foote DD-511*, one of 175 Fletcher Class Destroyers constructed in less than one thousand days during World War II, was built in Bath, Maine and commissioned in December 1942 at Boston. After rigorous training and drills from Maine to Guantanamo, Cuba, the ship got her first assignment: to convoy merchant ships to Casablanca, French Morocco, Africa.

But the real test for the ship and crew was to come in the Pacific.

she received a near fatal blow from a Japanese torpedo. She was hit in the fantail during the Battle of Empress Augusta Bay of Bougainville on the night of November 2, 1943. This was the battle in which Captain Burke's DESRON-23 proved that fast enemy destroyers operating in unison on their own could defeat a superior enemy force. The *Foote* lost 20 gallant men and 55 feet of her fantail.

Managing to stay afloat, the *Foote* was towed home and repaired in San Pedro, California.

Completely rebuilt and back in fighting trim, the *Foote* and its crew embarked once again for the Pacific, this time to join the assault on the Philippines.

Off Tacloban, Leyte her crew saw the first evidence of Japan's suicide air attacks, the dreaded kamikaze. The Foote crew was further tested in the first re-supply convoy to Mindoro and the shore bombardments at Lingayen Gulf, Luzon where Allied Forces landed to retake Manila.

When the "Little Beavers" reassembled and sailed for Okinawa they sailed into what was to be the greatest battle of all: the Battle for Okinawa in the Ryuku Chain, at the southern tip of Japan, where the last-ditch effort of the Japanese sent their death squadrons against the fleet and nearly turned the invasion into a disaster. The destroyers were especially vulnerable to the kamikaze on their Radar Picket Stations 20 to 45 miles offshore.

The *Foote*'s luck held, and after several close calls, the day finally came when Japan requested terms of surrender.

Her duty well done, the *U.S.S. Foote DD-511* raised her anchor for the last time in foreign waters, and with homeward bound pennants flying, sailed for home on September 10, 1945.

She entered New York harbor on October 17, 1945 in victory parade with 56 other ships of the Pacific fleet.

Coming home to Boston where the ship was commissioned will be quite a treat for those who were stationed here.

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These are very poor quality scans, that I made at home. (I was out of yw ink) We have a graphic designer print the real pages.
Georgia

*Georgia kneels on the USS Foote's bench aboard the Coast Guard's USS Cape St. George. Each booth in the ship's mess is named for a Little Beaver Squadron ship.*

**Georgia Tu**
**Robert Ric**

*Daughter of George F. Tuttle, Jr.*
P.O. Box 549
Lebanon, NH 03766-0549

H: 603-448-3433

W: 603-448-1071

E-mail: georgia_tuttle@valley.net

*Bob and Rog inspect the galley of the USS Kidd.*

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Genealogy & Local History Dept.
Watts Family File #2



# WWII vets share bond

VOLUNTEERS: Navy veterans like H.P. 'Ham' Hamilton, below, help keep the decks swabbed and the paint fresh on the World War II destroyer USS Cassin Young.

## 'Lucky ship' crew holds reunion

Fifty-seven years ago, as swarms of Japanese kamikaze pilots bombarded a fleet of U.S. ships off the coast of Okinawa, Ted Mottola thought he and the rest of the crew of the USS Foote were "dead in the water."

The destroyer was disabled by a torpedo and was taking on water. The 325 sailors aboard watched in horror as ships all around them were torn apart by suicide pilots.

**STAFF PHOTOS BY Garo Lachinian**

Twenty-one men were killed aboard the USS Foote during the infamous Nov. 2, 1943 attack, but somehow the ship made it to shore.

This weekend, about 50 surviving members of the legendary battleship's crew are in Boston. Yesterday they headed to sea aboard the USS Cassin Young.

"It brings back a lot of memories," Mottola, 78, of Roslindale, said. "Some of the guys will be running around like little children."

Volunteers, including many World War II vets, toiled all last week at Charlestown Navy Yard sprucing up the Cassin Young, one of three remaining U.S. Fletcher-Class destroyers, in anticipation of the weekend reunion.

The government made 175 of the destroyers between 1941 and 1945, but only the Cassin Young, the USS Sullivan in Buffalo, N.Y., and the USS Kidd in Baton Rouge, La. remain.

The Cassin Young is named for a Navy commander who was a recipient of the Medal of Honor for saving sailors during the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

Young died on the heavy cruiser USS San Francisco on Nov. 13, 1942, when the ship was hammered by artillery shells during the naval battle of Guadalcanal.

"We put about 100 old salts on here and their families and it brings them back to their youth," said Ed Locke, a maintenance chief for the National Park Service who works on the Cassin Young. "They grew up here. It's like their second home."

For volunteers like Jack Cronin, the self-proclaimed "saltiest guy in town," the ship truly is a home away from home.

Cronin, who volunteers two days a week at the Navy yard, was on a cruiser in the fleet with the Cassin Young when it was struck by a kamikaze pilot near Okinawa.

"Twenty-five men died right here in this boiler room," Cronin, 73, said as he worked in the guts of the vessel.

"These boats were the first line of defense. The destroyers did a hell of a job taking out the kamikazes and many of them took a real beating."

Wilbur Rogers of Baton Rouge was just 17 years old when the USS Foote took part in the 82-day battle at Okinawa. He recalled a "blood bath" at sea in which 13 U.S. destroyers were sunk by Japan's "death squadrons."

"One hit so close to us, it wounded men on the ship," he recalled. "We shot (a Japanese plane) down before it hit us. It landed about 20 yards away."

Rogers, 74, traveled to Boston for this weekend's events, which include functions at the Dedham Hilton and a trolley tour of Boston as well as yesterday's day at sea aboard the Cassin Young.

USS Foote survivors have met each year since 1983 in a different location; 12 years ago, the group made a short voyage to sea on the Cassin Young.

Rogers said although they may be different in their daily lives, they have an undeniable bond when they reunite each year.

"After the war, we all went our separate ways. Some went to college, some didn't," Rogers, a retired Exxon engineer, said.

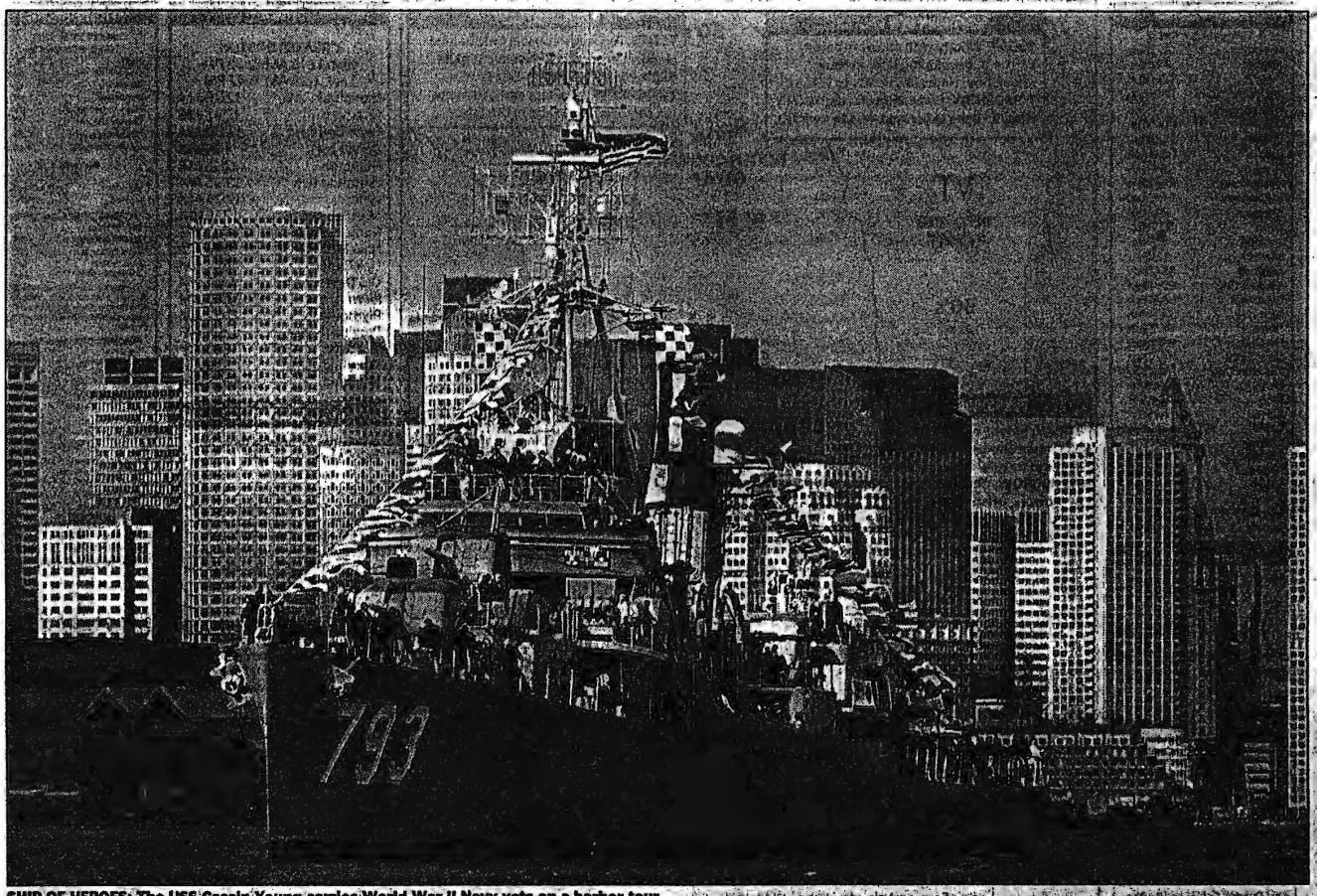
"But when we get back together, it seems like we just pick up our conversations where we left them off 40 years ago. It's amazing, really."

Each year, the group gets a bit smaller: Since last year's reunion in Missouri, two members have died.

"We're getting older, let's face it," Mottola said. "But it's great to get together and see all the guys. We were lucky. It was a lucky ship."

MAKING READY: National Parks Service worker Ed Coughlin, left, tries to squeeze through a tiny hatch. Below, volunteer vets Bob Kslazyk, left, and Ronald Sandberg relive their days as sailors.

# forged in fearful times



SHIP OF HEROES: The USS Cassin Young carries World War II Navy vets on a harbor tour.

ALL HANDS: Phil Jasper of Lynn, left, adds a coat of paint to one of the boilers on the USS Cassin Young, a decommissioned destroyer berthed at the Charlestown Navy Yard. Above, another World War II vet, Al Lawton of Melrose, polishes the brass face of the ship's wheel.

Pascagoula Public Library
Genealogy & Local History Dept.
Watts Family File #2

Pascagoula Public Library
Genealogy & Local History Dept.
Watts Family File #2

Living|Arts

THE BOSTON GLOBE • MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1999

GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / MARK WILSON

**Veterans of the destroyer USS Foote sail around Boston Harbor.**

# WWII veterans sail down memory lane

By Michael Kenney
GLOBE STAFF

ABOARD THE USS CASSIN YOUNG – "The thing that I remember," said Wilbur Rogers, "is the fact that we were so young."

Rogers, now 74, was among several dozen men who served aboard the destroyer USS Foote during World War II. On Saturday, they were aboard the Cassin Young – a sister ship to the Foote – when it headed into Boston Harbor from its berth at the Charlestown Navy Yard for its annual sea trials.

And what Rogers also knows, he said quietly, is that

REUNION, Page C5

# Foote mates share memories

■ REUNION
Continued from Page C1

"we're losing one man a month" from among the 660 men who served aboard the Foote. Now, said Rogers, only some 40 members of the Foote Association, which he heads, actually served aboard the ship. The rest are "legacies" – wives, widows, children, and grandchildren.

As they walked slowly around the decks of the Cassin Young, the emotional high point of their weekend reunion, the old shipmates recalled glory and death – and also the lighter moments of their lives together.

There was the night in November 1943 off Bougainville, during the Solomon Islands campaign, when a Japanese torpedo hit the fantail, blowing off 55 feet of its 376-foot length and killing 20 members of its 330-man crew.

"We were making a torpedo run on a cruiser," said John Connolly of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. "But a Japanese destroyer was making a run on us and we didn't know it."

"Three seconds earlier," said Bill Stone of Concord, "we'd have been hit amidships" – almost certainly dooming the ship.

When John Wason, the ship's gunnery officer, was out of hearing, they recalled the day in May 1945 off Okinawa when a gun crew under his command brought down a Japanese kamikaze making a suicide attack on the Foote. The kamikaze plane crashed barely 30 yards off the port beam. Wason, now of Evergreen, Colo., received the Bronze Cross for his part in the action.

Greg Ferritto, now of Sarasota, Fla., remembers that as the Japanese plane exploded on crashing into the water, sending fragments toward the ship, he dived for the deck and landed on top of Wason.

"Funny thing," he said, laughing at his recollection. "I landed on top of Wason, but he got the medal."

Ferritto had another story to tell on himself. His station at general quarters was at one of the gun mounts on the stern. But on one run, the guns had been removed so that the Foote could transport equipment. So when a general quarters was sounded in the middle of a rainstorm, he took shelter, rather than standing out on the gunless deck.

He was called before the captain, who didn't accept his explanation, telling Ferritto that if he had been at his station, he might have spotted an enemy submarine periscope or an attacking plane. For punishment, Ferritto was ordered to the crow's-nest, high above the ship. "I was up there all day and everybody who came along would holler up, 'Hey, Greg, what do you see up there?' "

Lighter memories returned, too, as the old shipmates from the Foote walked around the ship so much like their own.

John Gallagher, now of Raleigh, N.C., was a fire control director, squeezed in a tiny compartment deep inside the ship's hull, directing the fire of on-deck gun crews. It was also, he recalled, the place where bottles of whiskey, illegally brought aboard, could be stashed underneath the flooring.

"We'd save it up," he recalled, "then we'd all squeeze in there and have a drink."

And there were memories of their long-ago leaders, Admiral Arleigh Burke who led their squadro during the Pacific campaign and wo the knickname "31-Knot" for th speed and dash of his destroyers Burke also gave the squadron it nickname, "Little Beavers," whic was embroidered on many of th Foote shipmates' windbreakers an is the emblem for the reunio badges. This year, to note its Bosto location, the beaver is riding on Pat Revere's horse.

Stone recalled that Burke saw young torpedo man painting th words on a torpedo casing and like it as a symbol that would pull th ships and their crews together – as i has clearly done now for over a hall century.

The reunions began only 1 years ago, said Rogers. "When w got to be 50 and 55," he said, "w began to feel a little nostalgia. But only went reluctantly to that first re union. Once I got there, however, was picking up on conversation where I'd left off 54 years before. I was like, 'As I was saying . . .' "

Like several of his old shipmates Rogers refers to those days as "dou ble-u, double-u eleven." He said thi refers to phrasing he hears fron young people today who are so fa removed from the days of Worl War II that that is what they under stand when they see a written refer ence to "WWII."

Rogers now lives in Bato Rouge, La., where he is the commis sioner of the Louisiana Naval Wa Memorial, which is another siste ship of the Foote, the USS Kidd.

"I'm lucky how I can go back, Rogers said. "I'm 74, but I can wall on those decks of the Kidd and I'n 19 years old again."

(Continued on Page 9)

3-11-1960

# Rites Thursday for Chester Watts, crushed by train

Funeral services were held Thursday for a 57-year-old railroad conductor killed Monday when he was crushed by a freight train in Pascagoula.

Services for Chester Stonewall Watts were conducted at 10 a.m. in Mobile from the chapel of Higgins Mortuary.

He was brother of John Watts, former local L&N agent and Pascagoula mayor, and county judge L. A. Watts.

Interment was in Mobile Memorial Gardens.

Watts died at 12:20 a.m. Tuesday in Singing River Hospital, about six hours after the accident which occurred at the L&N yard.

Employed by the L&N for more than 40 years, Watts was conductor on a freight train which made daily runs between Mobile and Pass Christian.

Local L&N agent W. J. McCraney said Watts' train was on its way to Pass Christian and stopped in Pascagoula about 4:11 p.m. to switch cars.

McRaney said the train was preparing to pull out when Watts was pinned between one of the box cars and the station's loading platform.

The injured man was rushed to the hospital by Bryant's Ambulance Service.

McRaney said train flagman Claude Eubanks spotted Watts a few seconds after he was crushed and halted the train.

The agent said there were no witnesses to the accident.

Watts was a native of St. Elmo, Ala. and a resident of Mobile for many years. He was a member of Dauphin Way Baptist Church and the Brotherhood of Railroad Train Conductors.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Dessie Baker Watts, Mobile; a daughter, Mrs. Sidney Coan, Lafayette, La.; two sisters, Mrs. Clara Martin, Pascagoula, Mrs. W. L. Thornton, Jackson.

Two other brothers, Lonnie L. Watts, Pascagoula, and [illegible] Watts, [illegible]

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## CREDIT DUE

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Two hundred students and 115 parents and adult leaders representing seven Negro 4H Clubs gathered at Moss Point Magnolia school Friday for the annual rally.

Following the morning program, lunch was served in the cafeteria. The afternoon devoted to a talent show and film, "The Fifth H," shown by M. P. Lewis, county farm agent, and J. M. Epting of the county health department.

**Prize winners were announced today by Annie Wimbs, Negro home agent. In the oratorical contest Emma Jackson, Bluff Creek, 1st; Gloria Brown, Pascagoula, 2nd, and Barbara Quave, Gautier, 3rd.**

Demonstrations: Bluff Creek, 1st; Gautier, 2nd.

Special talent: Mattie Tallefroe, Pascagoula, 1st; Mildred Hanshaw, Ocean Springs, 2nd; Alma Norvell, 3rd; Gail Woodie, 4th.

Folk dances: Moss Point Magnolia, Gautier and Pascagoula.

Leadership: Celestine Simmons, Gautier, 1st; Emma Jackson, Bluff Creek, 2nd.

**Medals for best records: Celestine Simmons, Gautier, food preparation; Leroy Fairley, Bluff Creek, gardening; Gwendolyn Reddix, Vancleave, canning; Agnes Mason, Moss Point, clothing and Mary Cunningham, Moss Point, canning.**

Banners were awarded Bluff Creek and Davis Chapel for 100% attendance with all members in uniform.

There are seven clubs in the county—Moss Point, Pascagoula, Gautier, Ocean Springs, Davis Chapel, Bluff Creek and Escatawpa. Pascagoula, the most recently organized, has been active for two months. 4-17-53

## Gentile Statement Published Today

J. B. Gentile, Pascagoula electrician, formally announced today in his campaign for public works commissioner.

His statement appears on page eight, section three.

Safety pins 3,000 years old which still fasten have been found by archaeologists, says the National Geographic Society.

## Second Go-Round For Rabies Shots

R. W. Marsh, Biloxi veterinarian, will be in Pascagoula Saturday to innoculate dogs against rabies, mayor Wilber Dees said today.

Marsh will be at the police station from 8 to 10 a.m.; at Lake school from 10 a.m. to noon; at Market street fire station from 1 to 3 p.m., and at Beach school from 3 to 5 p.m.

He will return to Moss Point April 25 from 8 to 10 a.m. he will be at Kreole, from 10 a.m. until noon at Escatawp aand from 1 until 5 p.m. at the fireman's hall.

## Oregon Engaged In Longest Trip With New Gear

Testing of an electronic "fish finder" and live-bait fishing for tuna will receive special attention during the current cruise of the Oregon.

The cruise will be one of the longest the Oregon has taken since being based at Pascagoula for Gulf exploratory work by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The cruise is scheduled to last until June 25.

Operations will be centered in the approaches to the Gulf, the Straits of Florida, the Yucatan Channel and the northeast Caribbean.

**Chief emphasis will be placed on live bait fishing for black and yellow fin tuna and white skip-jack.**

In addition, exploratory drags with a 40-foot shrimp trawl will be made in areas hitherto not covered by the Oregon.

Snapper fishing with wire lines will be undertaken in deep water, if and when indications of potential snapper fishing are found.

Tuna fishing gear has been prepared so that changes from the conventional style used on the Pacific to other kinds can be made without return to port, according to Stewart Springer, director.

## In Cancer Report Le

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Parker, Jamie Leatherbury, R. N. Flurry, Hazel Ashley and Miss Marcia Young, decorations. Mesdames Martha Petersen, Savannah Pinkston, Irene Saliba, Catherine Firth, Lynwood and Charles Mitchell, refreshments.

# OLV To Open Kindergarten Next September

A well-equipped kindergarten is to be opened at OLV school next September according to a report from Sister M. Joseph, principal of the elementary school who stated that a child must be 5 years old by Dec. 31 to be eligible for enrollment.

**The report was given to the Catholic School League at a meeting Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.**

The new adding machine recently bought for the school was displayed by Sister Lucretia, head of the commercial department.

It was announced that the junior class will sponsor a tiny tot Valentine ball in the school auditorium Sunday at 3 p. m.

Mrs. J. E. Krebs, co-chairman with Mrs. Lonnie J. Watts, reported that more than $1700 had been earned at the annual Carnival ball.

**Mrs. Joe Stigletts reported on attendance of mothers at meeting for the quarter with prizes going to the 2nd, 6th and 11th grades.**

The league decided to buy dictionaries for the high school library. The door prize went to Mrs. Joe Kelly. Refreshments were served by the hostesses, Mesdames Charles Johnson and W. C. Westphal.

Prayers were said by Mrs. Cora Bell McGrath and Sister M. Clementine.

# Coach Resigns At Moss Point

The resignation of J. D. Stonestreet, head coach at Moss Point high, was announced today by L. W. Tanner, city school superintendent.

Stonestreet will leave June 1.

**THE RIG ABOVE IS AN OIL WELL AT LAINE (NOW Kreole), once a center of much black gold hunting. The photo was brought in by J. S. Pikka of Kreole. If you have any old photos of Jackson county places, things or people, bring them in for the Album feature. Proper credit will be given.**

**MORE THAN 40 YEARS AGO, THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN O a cargo steamship loading railroad cross-ties at Moss Poin Note the four-masted sailing ship in left background and th Mississippi Export Railroad lines in foreground left. The phot was submitted by Mr. Sidney Krebs of Eastside.**

FIFTY ONE YEARS AGO, THE ABOVE PHOTOGRAPH W

COMBINED WITH
THE MOSS POINT ADVERTISER.
PASCAGOULA AND MOSS POINT, MISSISSIPPI—FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1944
Member National Editorial Association

# ond Quota bor Attack

## oyees Warned le Exemption By December 1

employees are reminded Collector of Internal Rev- the Mississippi District new Withholding Exemp- rtificates with their em- by December 1. ired by the new Indi- Income Tax of 1944, these tes will list the em- exemptions and will aid ing the amount of income withhold from wages un- new withholding tables become effective on Jan-

## ent Decision ses 150 Men eave Yard

result of the recent work involving 550 electricians by sub-contractors at yard, approximatley 150 of Department 17 of lls Shipbuilding were of the yard late Thursday a special meeting held

who are out of the yard utside machinists, weld- pipefitters who work with cal craft in the installa- heavy machinery and The special meet- called by them to discuss nal matters after the workers insisted upon work which has been Department 17 for five years.

tricians involved in the which occurred the sec- of the month returned following arbitration be- presentatives of the Na- rical Contractors As- and the International of Electrical Work- recommendations hand- were approved by Local 733, IBEW, of Pasca- both electrical sub-con- Ingalls. This decision jurisdiction to and called tion by IBEW of all usually performed by the welders and burners nt 17. It further speci- ould the IBEW be in- nish sufficient man- necessary required ould be procured from ies and would be as- ary work permit un- they could be re- IBEW members. This of seniority men of Depart-

When asked for a tement of Depart- and the

VETERAN OF MANY AMPHIBIOUS operations along the tough road back from the Solomons to the Philippines, the Coast Guard-manned LST-18, known as the "Old 18" is right on the job again at Leyte Island, as the photo shows. In the foreground, sandbags for beach gun emplacements are being readied while more men and supplies for the battle of the Central Philippines pour off the famous ship. In the background is the LST-202, which also has a proud invasion record. U. S. Coast Guard photo. (International)

# To Lay Plans For Raising Additional Recreation Funds At Meeting Monday

A mass meeting of all interested citizens and heads of civic and business organizations has been called for 8 p.m. Monday at the High school auditorium to consider means of raising additional funds for the Pascagoula Recreation Program, Thomas R. Wells, chairman of the city recreation commission, announced Thursday.

The mass meeting was called following sessions of the city commission held this week. Although no official figures are yet available on the amount of money raised for the recreation program during the present combined War and Recreation Fund drive, indications are that it will be necessary to raise approximately $7,000 to $8,000 more.

The city's priority on the program has been extended by the government to January 2. It was originally scheduled to expire on December 2.

Under the program the Federal government will make available to the city $117,000, to which will be added the city's share of $63,000, to bring the total cost to $180,000 and give Pascagoula probably the most comprehensive program of any city in the state.

"I cannot overemphasize the importance of all interested parties attending the meeting Monday night," Mr. Wells said.

## Circus To Show In Pascagoula Tuesday Afternoon And Night

Cowboys, cowgirls, trained horses and animals as well as other feature circus acts will be presented by the Bradley and Benson Circus and rodeo in a

## Alton John Watts Officially Listed Among The Missing

Alton John Watts, motor machinist's mate first class, has been officially listed among the missing, according to a letter received last week by Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie L. Watts, Sr. of Pascagoula, from the Navy department at Washington.

On November 5, 1943, Mr. and Mrs. Watts received a telegram from Washington telling them that their son had been missing since November 2. And as he has not yet been heard from, following the custom in such cases, after a year's wait, the official notification was sent to them.

As the engagement in which Watts was lost was around Bougainville, the family has never given up the hope that he will be found on one of the many islands there, when the Japs are finally driven out.

Watts enlisted in the Navy in 1939. He has a brother, Lonnie L. Watts, Jr. who is in the Naval Reserve, and is based at San Diego.

Mayor-elect John R. Watts is an uncle of the missing sailor.

## Entertainment Group Makes Further Plans

Further steps toward securing a new type of entertainment for the Pascagoula-Moss Point area were taken when the organization committee of Entertainment, Inc. held a meeting at the USO

## T. B. Seals Go On Sale Monday, Mrs. McIlwain Reminds

Mrs. S. B. McIlwain, president of Jackson county Tuberculosis Association, today announced that the annual sale of Christmas Seals will begin next Monday.

It was stated that official health agencies have urged the local association to intensify its programs of X-ray examinations, education and other means of combating tuberculosis, which even since Pearl Harbor has claimed more American lives than the war itself.

Everyone will be asked to buy and use the little Christmas stickers so that this important health work may be increased during the coming year.

## Governors To Be Guests Of Ingalls Sunday Morning

Southern governors who attended their annual convention in Biloxi this week-end will be guests of the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation Sunday for breakfast and a tour of the shipyard.

They, with their wives, secretaries, members of the press and state guard will comprise party of about 60 which is expected to arrive in Pascagoula about 9:30 Sunday morning. Breakfast will be served at the Longfellow House after which they will be taken to the yard. R. J. Ingalls, Sr., chairman of the Board of the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation and R. J. Ingalls, Jr., vice-chairman of the board will be present to act as hosts.

The theme of the conference will deal with post war problems

# Grand Jury In Five Day Sess Trial Schedule

## Court Recesses For Beginning Final Wee Numerous Cases Sche

## Moss Point Rotary Entertains Hurley Group At Dinner

The "get acquainted" program of the Moss Point Rotary club was inaugurated Tuesday night when men of the Hurley Community were guests of the Rotarians at a dinner at the Hurley Community House.

The dinner grew out of an idea conceived by W. B. Herring for the promotion of better understanding between rural and urban residents and the development of means of livlihood which would make the rural sections independent. Each Rotarian had as his guest a man living in that section of the county.

Long tables were arranged in the auditorium and colorful centerpieces of autumn fruits and vegetables with evregreens and bright berries were used. The meal was prepared and served by a committee headed by Mrs. A. C. Pedersen.

The basis of the plan for increased and new production by the farmers as outlined by Mr. Herring is the opening of new fields of production in the rural areas backed by a revolving fund of about $25,000 which would be used to supplement, in loans, the money required by the farmer to set up his new enterprise.

"A man's heart is where his money is," he explained, "so it would be advisable for the man involved to furnish a part of the financing needed. In addition to providing additional funds for the farmers the fund would also be used to assist or entirly provide for sending to Mississippi State College deserving boys and girls for scientific training. There would be an understanding that the boy or girl would return to this county for a certain period and in that way we would have several men and women trained in farming methods.

Urging that fullest advantage be taken of products native to the county, Mr. Herring advised against bringing in of agrofin against bringing in of foreign plant and endeavoring to adapt them to the soil. He expressed the opinion that with our mild climate and other attributes "making a living is no easy for us and has made it comparatively

FOOTE - NOTES

No. 7. November 7, 1943. Vol. 1.

The Greatest Little Paper Afloat - Prints Nothing But Straight Dope

## THE FOOTE's HONOR ROLL

Ensign Theodore J. O'Dell, U.S.N.R.

Dennis E. Bleasdale, F2c, U.S.N.

William C. Blougouras, S1c, U.S.N.R.

Aaron J. Blue, StM2c, U.S.N.R.

Robert J. Bush, S2c, U.S.N.R.

Harold E. Cooper, TM3c, U.S.N.R.

James Costantini, S2c, U.S.N.R.

Philip J. Culotta, F3c, U.S.N.

Peter J. Gaidis, S1c, U.S.N.R.

Alfred W. Grant, Jr., S1c, U.S.N.

John A. Henkel, S2c, U.S.N.R.

Raymond W. Jones, Jr., M2c, U.S.N.

Edmund K. Lambert, S1c, U.S.N.R.

Eugene H. Long, SC2c, U.S.N.R.

Harvard S. Mix, RT2c, U.S.N.R.

Max G. Tudor, EM2c, U.S.N.R.

George E. Watson, S2c, U.S.N.R.

[redacted]

Orlandaith C. Wheatley, F2c, U.S.N.

R.K.

WW II

WATTS

# MISSISSIPPI'S FIGHTING MEN

## ALTON JOHN WATTS

**Rank. MoMM 1/c—Branch of service: Navy**
Parents' name: Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Leanba Watts.
Address: Pascagoula, Miss.
Where and when born: Pascagoula, Miss. Nov. 14, 1917.
Single.
Schools attended: Convent School, Pascagoula, Miss., St. Aloysius College, Vicksburg and Pascagoulo High School.
Entered service: Sept. 13, 1939: Missing in action since November 2, 1943.

## LONNIE JOSEPH WATTS

**Rank: SPI 1/c—Branch of service: Navy**
Parents name: Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Leanba Watts.
Address: Pascagoula, Miss.
Where and when born: Pascagoula, Miss. Nov. 22, 1915.
Married. Children: One.
Schools attended: Corwert School, Pascagoula, Miss.; St. Aloysus College; Spring Hill College, Mobile, Ala.
Entered service: Jan. 20, 1943.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2007 THE MISSISSIPPI PRESS / 5

# FACES OF THE COAST

Nicole LaCour Young/The Mississippi Press

## Pam Watts

Pam Watts is the director of Deaconess Home Care in Pascagoula. Watts was an emergency room trauma nurse for 20 years. After having two children, Watts moved to a career that was more flexible, giving her time to raise her children. She's worked in the home health field for about 15 years and she has grown to love her work. Watts said she and her staff of about 25 serve the Jackson County community helping patients with a variety of needs — including sight or hearing problems and diabetes management. Watts said she loves her work because of the deep involvement in the community it affords her and the staff. "We're the glue that holds personal health care together," she said. In a way, she explained, they take the place of the old, family-doctor house calls. "It's a more holistic approach to health care," she said. Watts said she spends as much time with her children, Kristen, 10 and Kyle, 18, and her mother and siblings as she can. She also enjoys participating in community events such as the upcoming Relay for Life. She said she strives to be as much a part of her community as possible.

1959
LONNIE J. WATTS P.E.R. KING ANTLERS I
MRS. SALLIE FERRER, QUEEN DOE I

WATTS F.LE

1974 The Gautier Independe

# RE-ELECT
# L. A. "RED" WATTS
# JUDGE

## Vote - Tuesday, June 25th

## for

## L. A. "RED" WATTS

Jackson County Court, Post No. 1, including the Youth Court Division

Proven ability with training, experience and qualifications has helped Judge Watts to understand the problems and frustrations of our young people.

Judge Watts works with over 200 boys and girls each month. He acts firmly, impartially and fairly in the interest of our children.

Judge and Mrs. Watts have children and grandchildren of their own.

We need Judge Watts to finish his good work --- with the completion of the Youth Court Comples [Detention Home] --- AND FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR CHILDREN.

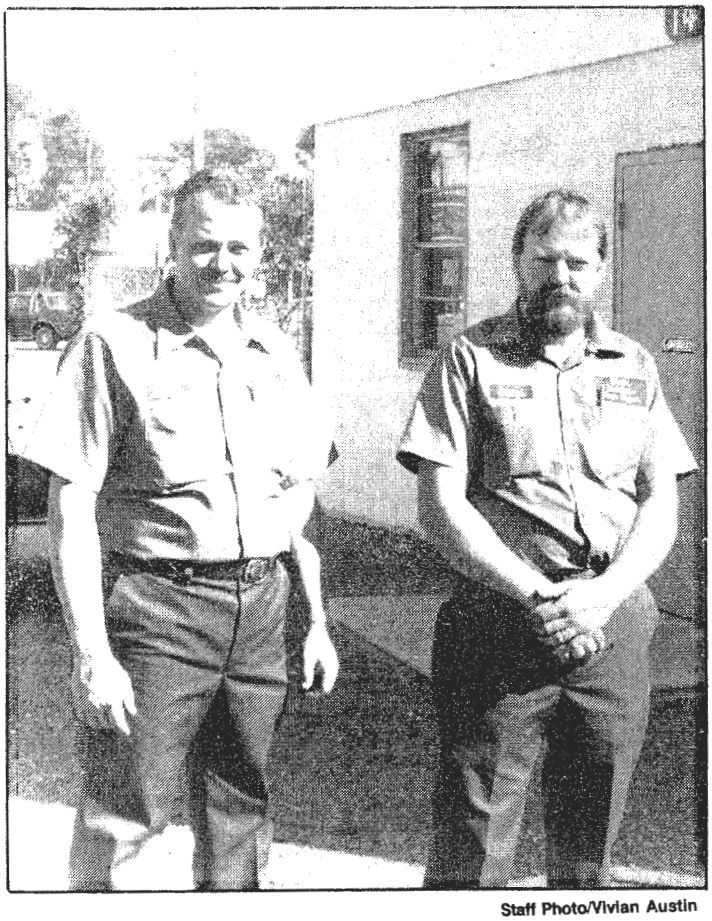
A delinquent child is a child that needs help.

Political advertisement paid for and approved by L. A. Watts

scribed as "cheap.

A&P spokesman Michael Rourke could not be reached for comment Monday.

pany's remaining indep... enabling stockholders to share in the company's future."



Staff Photo/Vivian Austin

**WATTS BROTHERS AUTO REPAIR** — Walter Watts (left) and Daryl Watts are shown in front of their new business which opened Sept. 15 at 1410 Communy Ave. in Pascagoula. Work by the auto repair firm ranges from minor engine tuneups to complete overhauls.

Oct. 18, 88

R.K.

# Joe Watts Martin, Sr.

*August 25, 1911*
*February 27, 1998*

The family of Joe Watts Martin, Sr., wishes to thank all of you who have meant so much to us during the recent loss of our father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother. Your expressions of friendship and love now and through the years mirror the deep regard which he had for this community. We are deeply grateful for your many kindnesses. To those who were unable to be with us at this time, be assured that we know you were with us in thought and prayer.

We are especially grateful to his caregivers, the Medical Community, the Pascagoula Police Department, Our Lady of Victories Parish and other parishes, the priests of the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi and members of other faith communities with whom he shared so much.

Your love and concern are treasured in our hearts. May God continue to bless and keep you always.

*Re-elect*

**L. A. (Red) WATTS**

**JUDGE**

**Jackson County Court**

— PLACE NUMBER 1 —

Election Tuesday, June 2, 1970

**TRAINED — EXPERIENCED — QUALIFIED**

Pauline Canarela
197. Southern Blvd.
Nesconset
Long Island
Ny. 11767

12
3
2

R.V. WATTS Sheriff - Angelina Co. Texas
1904-1914
1920-1924

## Chris Watts should be honored for contributions to society

**To the editor:**

The recent fire-related death of Chris Watts in Moss Point over New Year's day should not go unnoticed by the hundreds of young boys he helped mold into young men. A close friend of mine who still has family in the area passed on the news to me recently. And it was only recently that we had both discussed the profound impact Chris Watts had on us as boys involved in the Boy Scout program in Moss Point Troop 237. My friend, Jim Harvey, had the opportunity recently to visit Chris and let him know personally just how much his sacrifices in time and labor meant to us in retrospect. I was not fortunate to be able to do so myself.

It is only when we too become adults with responsibilities and families that we realize the sacrifices he made of his own time and money to spend herding a band of rambunctious youngsters who were largely unappreciative of his efforts. Chris was a fine man, a great example to the youngsters he managed, and was selfless in his dedication to his position in the Scouts. I can't count the times he packed up the truck with camping gear, food, tents and squirming bodies to trek through the woods on his weekends off to Big Point, Vancleave and any other available camping areas he could find, guiding us all in ways we were unaware of to become moral, strong and productive adults.

Chris Watts should be recognized and honored. His children and family can be duly proud of the man he was. If there is a place after death for good people, Chris Watts is a shoo-in. God bless you, Chris Watts.

**Mark R. Craven**
**Las Vegas, Nevada**

**WATTS**

**Clifton Gerald "Gerry" Watts, Jr.**, 58, of Moss Point, died July 15, 2003, at his residence. He was born Feb. 9, 1945, in Pascagoula.

Mr. Watts was a Project Material Coordinator with Ingalls Shipbuilding, where he had been employed 36 years.

He served in the U.S. Navy and was a member of Moss Point Masonic Lodge #202 F&AM. He was preceded in death by his father, Clifton Gerald "Chris" Watts Sr.

Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Doris Watts of Moss Point; daughters and sons-in-law, Rhonda and Jeff Thompson of Escatawpa, Cary and Lee Miller of Fremont, Calif.; son, Clifton Watts III of Moss Point; granddaughters, Courtney Loraine Thompson and Sarah Michelle Thompson of Escatawpa; grandson, Gregory Landon Miller of Fremont, Calif.; mother, Dorris Watts of Moss Point; brothers and sisters-in-law, Rod and Betty Watts of Pascagoula, Pat and Ann Watts of Big Point, Rev. Charlie and Dianne Watts of Mobile, Ala.; sisters and brothers-in-law, Janie and Rev. Randy Johnson of Theodore, Ala., Ginger and Larry Carlisle of Hurley; spiritual brother and friend, Robert "Roho" and Brenda Versiga of Pascagoula; many nieces, nephews and friends.

Visitation was from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Friday, July 18, at Holder-Wells Funeral Home in Moss Point.

Funeral service followed at 12 p.m. from the funeral home chapel with the Rev. Hank Googe officiating.

Interment was at Serene Memorial Gardens in Escatawpa.

Arrangements by Holder-Wells Funeral Home, Moss Point.

"Obituaries over one inch in length are paid advertisements."

FIRTH

WATTS

**Joseph Alton Watts**, 61, of Biloxi, Miss. passed away on August 12, 2006 following a courageous battle with Liver Disease. He was born on July 11, 1945 to the late Lonnie and Nora (Johnson) Watts. Joe graduated from Our Lady of Victories High School in 1963, and later attended Auburn University.

Joe was a devoted member of Our Lady of Victories Church in Pascagoula where he served as Altar Boy for eight years. He joined the Army National Guard in 1966 and served honorably for five and a half years. He dedicated 30 years to South Central Bell/BellSouth before retiring in 1996 as Construction Supervisor. He was a 15 year member of the Biloxi Elks Lodge #606 where he gladly assisted his fellow Elks in many charitable activities.

Joe is survived by two loving daughters, Cheryl Watts Zafiris and husband, Ioannis of Mobile, Ala., and Joli Watts Lauban and husband, Jason of Gautier, Miss.; and their mother, Suzzane Pinson of Pascagoula, Miss.; one granddaughter, Laine Margaret Lauban of Gautier; a sister, Wanda Watts Ramsey and husband, Bill of Biloxi, Miss.; a brother, Walter Watts and wife, Donna of Atlanta, Ga.; nieces and nephews, Darla, Jackie, William, Allen, Trae, Jonathan, Victoria and Emma; and many other loving family members and friends. In addition to his parents, Joe was preceded in death by his brother, Daryl Watts of Pascagoula.

Memorial services will be held on Monday, Aug. 21, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at Biloxi National Cemetery, with military honors provided by the U.S. Army and obituary rites performed by the Biloxi Elks. All relatives, friends, and neighbors are welcome.

Joe's wishes were that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the Harrison County School for Exceptional Children, c/o Biloxi Elks Lodge #606, 1178 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, MS 39530.

Arrangements by Riemann Memorial Funeral Home, 274 Beauvoir Road in Biloxi. Online Guestbook via riemannfuneralhomes.com.

Watts file

(Continued on Page 9)

3-11-1960

# Rites Thursday for Chester Watts, crushed by train

Funeral services were held Thursday for a 57-year-old railroad conductor killed Monday when he was crushed by a freight train in Pascagoula.

Services for Chester Stonewall Watts were conducted at 10 a.m. in Mobile from the chapel of Higgins Mortuary.

He was brother of John Watts, former local L&N agent and Pascagoula mayor, and county judge L. A. Watts.

Interment was in Mobile Memorial Gardens.

Watts died at 12:20 a.m. Tuesday in Singing River Hospital, about six hours after the accident which occurred at the L&N yard.

Employed by the L&N for more than 40 years, Watts was conductor on a freight train which made daily runs between Mobile and Pass Christian.

Local L&N agent W. J. McCraney said Watts' train was on its way to Pass Christian and stopped in Pascagoula about 4:11 p.m. to switch cars.

McRaney said the train was preparing to pull out when Watts was pinned between one of the box cars and the station's loading platform.

The injured man was rushed to the hospital by Bryant's Ambulance Service.

McRaney said train flagman Claude Eubanks spotted Watts a few seconds after he was crushed and halted the train.

The agent said there were no witnesses to the accident.

Watts was a native of St. Elmo, Ala. and a resident of Mobile for many years. He was a member of Dauphin Way Baptist Church and the Brotherhood of Railroad Train Conductors.

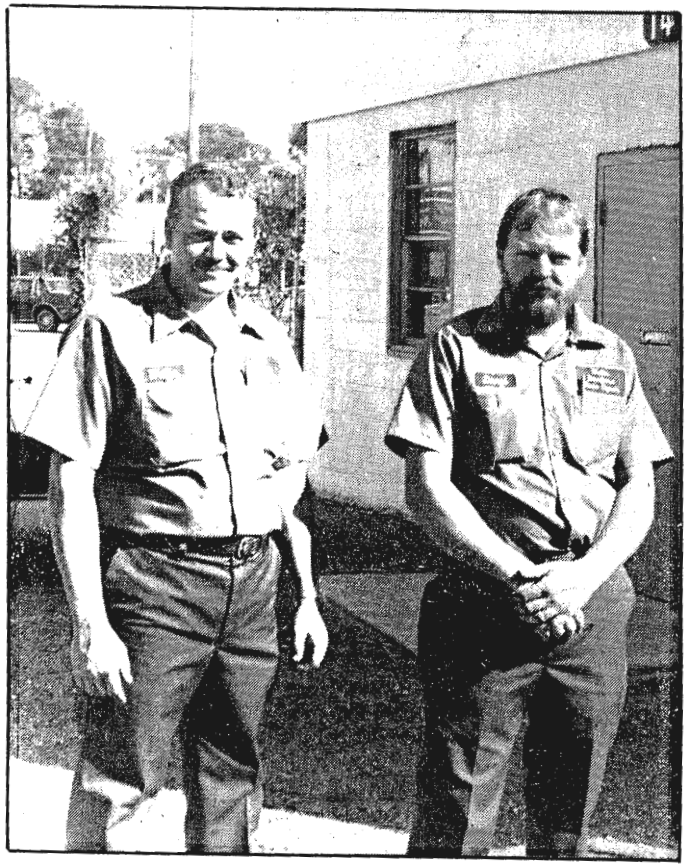
Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Dessie Baker Watts, Mobile; a daughter, Mrs. Sidney Coan, Lafayette, La.; two sisters, Mrs. Clara Martin, Pascagoula; Mrs. W. L. Thornton, Jackson.

Two other brothers, Lonnie L. Watts, Pascagoula, and [illegible]

scribed as "cheap."

A&P spokesman Michael Rourke could not be reached for comment Monday.

pany's remaining indep
enabling stockholders to share in the company's future."



Staff Photo/Vivian Austin

**WATTS BROTHERS AUTO REPAIR** — Walter Watts (left) and Daryl Watts are shown in front of their new business which opened Sept. 15 at 1410 Communy Ave. in Pascagoula. Work by the auto repair firm ranges from minor engine tuneups to complete overhauls.

Oct. 18, 88

R.K.

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IBM
IntlPa
James
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Kaiser
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Merca
Minn
Mobil
Mons
NCNE
Nacco
Navis
Norfl
Nyne
OlinC
PacT
Penne
Pepsi
Phelp
Philip

# Deaths

**O'Bryant**
FUNERAL HOME
4811 Telephone Rd. Pascagoula
762-4311
AVAILABLE SERVICES
• Pre-Arrangement Plans
• Insurance • Vaults
• Cremation

**WATTS**

**Mrs. Nora Antoinette Watts,** 65, 1009 Lake Ave., Pascagoula, died Thursday, April 17, 1986, at Singing River Hospital. Mrs. Watts was born July 4, 1920, in Pascagoula and was a lifelong resident. She was retired employee of the Welcome Center. Mrs. Watts was a member of Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church and the Stitch Club.

Survivors are three sons, Joe Alton Watts, Biloxi, Daryl Watts, Pascagoula, and Walter Watts, Houston, Texas; a daughter, Mrs. Wanda M. Ramsay, Mobile; a brother, Herman J. Johnson, Pascagoula; five granddaughters, two grandsons, and other relatives.

Visitation will be tonight, April 18, at O'Bryant Funeral Home from 6-9 p.m. Rosary will be recited at 8 p.m.

Funeral service will be Saturday, April 19, at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church.

Interment will be in Machpelah Cemetery.

**WATTS**

**Daryl G. Watts,** 44, of Pascagoula, Miss., died Saturday, July 11, 1998 in Pascagoula. He was born September 5, 1953 and had been a life-long resident of Pascagoula. Mr. Watts was a former employee of Danny Beauchamp's Auto and Wrecker Service and he was of the Catholic faith. He is preceded in death by his father and mother, Lonnie Joseph and Nora Watts.

Survivors include two daughters, Darla Watts and Jackie Watts, both of Pensacola, Fla.; two brothers, Joe Watts, Biloxi, Miss. and Walter Watts, Atlanta, Ga.; sister, Wanda Ramsey, Biloxi; grandson, Brandon Rushing, Pensacola and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Tuesday, July 14, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at O'Bryant-O'Keefe Funeral Home, Pascagoula.

Funeral service will be Wednesday, July 15, at 10:00 a.m. at O'Bryant-O'Keefe Funeral Home, Pascagoula, Miss.with Father Gerard Cleary officiating.

Interment will be in Machpelah Cemetery, Pascagoula.

Arrangements by O'Bryant-O'Keefe Funeral Home, Pascagoula, Miss.

WATTS FILE

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R.K.

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**ALTON WATTS**

Dr. Georgia A. Tuttle, 129 Mechanic St., Lebanon, NH 03766-1522 has been trying to find the family of a serviceman from Pascagoula who was killed in the Pacific during a torpedo attack on the *USS Foote* on Nov. 2, 1943.

The missing man was Alton Watts, the son of Mr. and Mrs. L.L. Watts. The family's mailing address in Pascagoula in 1943 was P.O. Box 104.

Alton Watts was Roman Catholic and enlisted in the Navy in Birmingham, Ala.

Names of the 19 men who were killed in the attack will be read in a memorial service during the *USS Foote* reunion in Boston this month.

Dr. Tuttle would like to hear from Watts' widow, or members of the Watts family. Her telephone number is 603-448-1071.

**Send all correspondence to this column to "Branches & Twigs," The Mississippi Press, P.O. Box 849, Pascagoula, MS 39568, or e-mail, brtw20@ametro.net.**

*Regina Hines, city editor, is a certified genealogical record specialist.*

Oct. 99

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R.K.

WATTS FILE

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*Regina Hines, city editor, is a certified genealogical record specialist.*

Oct. 99

# Lonnie J. Watts dies in Orleans

## Funeral service for Ingalls official Tuesday morning

Funeral services will be held today for Lonnie Joseph Watts, 46, Pascagoula fraternal leader who died Sunday in New Orleans.

Requiem mass will be said at Our Lady of Victories Church at 10 a.m., followed by burial at Machpelah Cemetery.

**Rosary was to be said at 9 p.m. Monday at Falls in Pascagoula.**

A native and lifelong resident of Pascagoula, Watts was order and billing supervisor for Ingalls. He lived at 420 Lake Avenue.

He was a former grand knight of the local Knights of Columbus council and a former exalted ruler of the Elks lodge.

Ill for a month, Watts died early Sunday morning in Foundation Hospital, where he had been two weeks.

**Watts was graduated in 1936 from Pascagoula High School after establishing himself as one of the school's all-time great football players.**

He attended Spring Hill College in Mobile for two years. He was a Navy veteran of World War II and a well-known Coast football official.

Surviving are the widow the former Nora Johnson, three sons Joe Alton, Daryl and Walter Watts; a daughter Wanda Watts and his parents Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie L. Watts, all of Pascagoula.

LAST RITES SCHEDULED

## Final rites held for Lonnie Watts

Funeral services were held Tuesday at Our Lady of Victories Church in Pascagoula for Lonnie J. Watts of Pascagoula who died in New Orleans after a month-long illness.

Surviving are the widow, four children and his parents, all of Pascagoula.

Pallbearers were Claiborne Koch, Mack Hudson, Bill Beach, Joe Martin, B. B. Walker and J. B. George.

Feb. 22, 62

ournal-Star

BY FRIDAY MORNING.

ISTOFFICE AT SCRANTON AS
AL MAIL MATTER.

F JACKSON COUNTY.
ITY OF PASCAGOULA.

S, - - - Editor.

ALL HOME PRINT.

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ERTISERS.

STAR IS THE OLDEST
THE MISSISSIPPI
AS A LARGER BONA
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CHOICE.

S. Senator,
K. VARDAMAN,
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Governor,
ARLES SCOTT,
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enant-Governor,
EL B. WATTS,
rdale County.

Primary Election,
ist 1, 1907.

ON, MISS.,
JULY 5, 1907.

DATES

, THURSDAY, AUG. 1, 1907.
y, Thursday, Aug. 22.

ized to announce the
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orney, 2d District—
. HARRISON,
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D. BULLARD
A. DEES

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TY, of Biloxi.

ort Clerk—
H. LEWIS
P. DELMAS

Clerk—

## DESPERATION.

July 5, 190

The multi-tongue chase after Hon. Charles Scott has found another yelp to add to its chorus, chanting in perfect unison its enmity to the leading candidate, but singing, each in a different key, when its individual interest is at stake. Harmony and fraternity in the effort to defeat Mr. Scott: discord and wrangling when it becomes each man for himself. This combination of opposing candidates has discovered—or rather, imagines it has discovered—a new tune, destined to sing the requiem of the gentleman, who, to all unbiased minds, is several lengths ahead in the race for Governor.

Reduced to a syllogism, the fatal charge is as follows: A horrible crime was, a few days since, committed in Louisiana by Italians: but Charles Scott favors Italian immigration: therefore, he is a dangerous man and should be defeated. This is the sum and substance of the accusation, stripped of its verbiage, amplification, repetition, fiery eloquence, denunciation, innuendo, and all other, rhetorical tom-foolery for which the coalition has shown so marked a predilection.

A little just a little reference to facts will suffice to puncture and to let out the gas from this latest anything-to-beat-Scott argument. The criminals in the Lamana case, one of the most horrible in the annals of diabolical crime, are, every one of them, Sicilians, natives of Sicily, an island in the Mediterranean sea, belonging to, but apart from, Italy. The inhabitants of this island, who seem to be criminally disposed by birth and heredity, are known by the generic name of Italians, but are specifically Sicilians, diametrically unlike the rural population of northern and central Italy, from which class are to come the immigrants offered by Mr. Scott to replace the indolent and vicious negro. The agricultural classes of northern and central Italy are known and noted for their industry, sobriety, honesty, thrift and morality, as is proven by the criminal records of the Italian government and by the testimony of those who have employed and had dealings with them in Mississippi and Louisiana. And this is the truth to which the "holy alliance" is more than welcome.

## Picnic at Orange Grove.

On Saturday, July 13, 1907, the ...

## DEATH OF MAJ. A. B. WATTS.

Press dispatches announce the death at Dallas, Texas, on last Sunday, the 30th of June, of Major Albert B. Watts, formerly of Meridian, Miss., after a protracted illness, because of which he was at Dallas for treatment.

Major Watts was a native of Mississippi, but resided at the time of his death at Corpus Christi, Texas, to which place he removed with his family about twelve or fifteen years ago. He was about sixty five years of age, and leaves a wife and five children, all grown. He was the only brother of the whole blood of Capt. S. B. Watts, now candidate for Lieutenant-Governor, was a half brother of attorney H. B. Everitt and Miss Laura Everitt, of this city, a cousin of Mrs. J. L. Dantzler, of Moss Point, and a nephew of the editor and proprietor of the DEMOCRAT-STAR.

Major Watts entered the Confederate service as soon as he could get into the ranks when the tocsin of war was sounded and, though less than twenty years of age was soon promoted to the rank of captain, and when he had won his spurs by noteworthy gallantry on the firing line was again promoted to rank of major; which rank he held at the surrender. He was severely wounded several times, had numbers of horses shot from under him and commanded his men in the thick of battle on one occasion with his wounded arm carried in a sling, doing service with his pistol in the other hand. We are not accurately informed as to his place of service and the command with which he was enlisted, but he went out from Vicksburg, and it was at that city where he was doing service at the fall and the surrender.

He was a successful man of business, following mercantile pursuits, where he was at all times at the forefront as a man of fine judgment, energy and zeal, but was always more or less a sufferer from his war scars and injuries, though he raised a large family of children worthy of a brave and noble father and of a mother who was one of the most cultured and worthy women of the State. Three of his sons enlisted and did service in the Spanish-American war, all holding official positions, one or more serving in the rank of lieutenant.

## The Fourth at Anderson Park.

The proverbial patriotism of our people was well exemplified in the im-

## At Anderson

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## THE POLITICAL CUMBEST

Editor DEMOCRAT S
In "ye old times
Denny, Alfred Lew

**MRS. CONCATHIA GENTILE DIES**

Mrs. Concathia Gentile, 83-year-old widow of Pascagoula, collapsed about five o'clock Friday afternoon on the steps of the home of her daughter, Mrs. Iver Johnson, 419 Lake Avenue, Pascagoula, as she was about to enter the house for a visit. She died before she could be taken inside.

Mrs. Gentile was born in Genoa, Italy, and came to the United States 78 years ago. She has lived in Pascagoula for 55 years, residing with her son, Johnny Gentile, 433 Lake Avenue, at the time of her death.

She was a member of Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church and the remains were taken to her residence this morning. Rosary will be said there at 8:30 tonight, Father Gregory Johnson officiating.

The deceased is survived by three sons, John, Kimy, and Joseph Gentile, all of Pascagoula; one daughter, Mrs. Iver Johnson of Pascagoula; nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral will be held Sunday afternoon from her residence at 2:40 p.m. with services at Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church. Interment will be in the Macpelah Cemetery, Father Gregory Johnson officiating.

GENTILE File

WATTS

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**WATTS**

**Clifton Gerald "Gerry" Watts, Jr.**, 58, of Moss Point, Miss., died July 15, 2003, at his residence. He was born February 9, 1945, in Pascagoula, Miss. Mr. Watts was a Project Material Coordinator with Ingalls Shipbuilding, where he had been employed 36 years. He served in the U.S. Navy and was a member of Moss Point Masonic Lodge #202 F&AM. He was preceded in death by his father, Clifton Gerald "Chris" Watts Sr.

Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Doris Watts of Moss Point; daughters and sons-in-law, Rhonda and Jeff Thompson of Escatawpa, Cary and Lee Miller of Fremont, Calif.; son, Clifton Watts, III of Moss Point; granddaughters, Courtney Loraine Thompson and Sarah Michelle Thompson of Escatawpa; grandson, Gregory Landon Miller of Fremont, Calif.; mother, Dorris Watts of Moss Point; brothers and sisters-in-law, Rod and Betty Watts of Pascagoula, Pat and Ann Watts of Big Point, Rev. Charlie and Dianne Watts of Mobile, Ala.; sisters and brothers-in-law, Janie and Rev. Randy Johnson of Theodore, Ala., Ginger and Larry Carlisle of Hurley; spiritual brother and friend, Robert "Roho" and Brenda Versiga of Pascagoula; many nieces, nephews and friends.

Visitation will be Friday, July 18, from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Holder-Wells Funeral Home in Moss Point, Miss.

Funeral service will follow at 12 p.m. from the funeral home chapel with the Rev. Hank Googe officiating.

Interment will be at Serene Memorial Gardens in Escatawpa.

Arrangements by Holder-Wells Funeral Home, Moss Point, Miss.

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2003

# ENGAGEMENTS

## Watts-Weining

PASCAGOULA — The approaching marriage of Morgan Deanne Watts of Moss Point and Robert Terrance Weining of Pascagoula has been announced.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Patrick Watts Sr. of Moss Point. Her grandparents are Dorris Watts of Moss Point and the late C.G. Watts Sr., and Audrey Mae Morgan of Agricola and the late Sidney L. Morgan Sr.

She is a graduate of Pascagoula High School and a senior at University of South Alabama, majoring in speech pathology. She is a member of Alpha Theta Chi and was named to the president's list. She is employed at Singing River Hospital as a rehabilitation technician.

The prospective bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Carl Weining of Pascagoula. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Weathersby Sr. of Pascagoula, and the late Mr. and Mrs. F.T. Weining.

He is a graduate of the University of South Alabama in mechanical engineering. He is president of the Society of Automotive Engineers, treasurer of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and a president's list scholar. He is employed at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems as a mechanical engineer.

The couple will exchange vows at 2:30 p.m., Aug. 2, 2003, at Eastlawn United Methodist Church in Pascagoula.

## Porter-Martin

Watts

WATTS

Mr. Clifton G. "Chris" Watts, Sr., 76, of Moss Point, Miss., died Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2002, in Moss Point. He was born Aug. 1, 1926, in Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Watts was a United States Navy veteran of World War II. He was Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop #237 of Moss Point for many years, and was a very active member of the Moss Point community. He was a Master Mason with the Moss Point Masonic Lodge #202, and a deacon of Griffin Street Baptist Church. He was an exciting dad and a friend to many. Mr. Watts was preceded in death by his father and mother, Mr. Albert W. and Mrs. Imogene Watts.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Dorris E. Watts of Moss Point; four sons and daughters-in-law, Clifton G. "Gerry", Jr. and Doris Watts of Moss Point, Roderick William and Betty Watts of Pascagoula, Benjamin Patrick and Ann Watts of Big Point, and the Rev. Charles David and Diane Watts of Tanner Williams; two daughters and sons-in-law, Janie Kathleen and Rev. Randy Johnson of Mobile, Ala., and Virginia (Ginger) and Larry James Carlisle of Hurley; 23 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; and many friends.

Visitation will be today, Friday, Jan. 3, from 12 noon until 2 p.m., at Holder-Wells Funeral Home in Moss Point.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. from the funeral home chapel.

Interment will follow in Machpelah Cemetery with Masonic Rites given at gravesite.

Pallbearers will be Mr. Watts' grandsons.

Arrangements by Holder-Wells Funeral Home, Moss Point, Miss.

GENTILE

Tony Gentil

## DEATH OF TONY GENTILE

3-9-1906

After a short illness, Mr. Antonio Gentil, a well-known and popular citizen, died at his home on Kerr street Monday morning March 5, at 10 o'clock. He was a native of Palermo, Italy, aged 50 years and nine months, and had been a resident of this city for nearly twenty years. His remains were taken Tuesday morning to New Orleans. Deceased is survived by his wife and four children. The sympathy of all goes out to the bereaved widow and children.

William H. Watts

Pascagoula Democrat-Star, July 19, 1918

MR. J. C. WATTS has the sympathies of his many friends here, on account of the death of his eldest brother, MR. WM. WATTS, the news of whose death was received by the family here Tuesday. He was a resident of Cuba, Alabama, and died Monday at the advanced age of 85 years.

Wm Watts and wife are buried in Zion Baptist Church Cemetery,
Sumter Co., Alabama.
Wife Kizzie/M.H.C./Clementine? Born May 28, 1838, died Dec 22, 1926.

Supposed to have two daughters:
Eva Watts
Lucy Watts Garrison

Martha Elizabeth Watts

Obituary Chronicle Star, Pascagoula, MS, Feb 20, 1931

MISS MARTHA WATTS

News was received in Pascagoula of the death of MISS MARTHA WATTS, in Cuba, Ala., on Tuesday, February 17. Death was caused by the flu and an attack of pneumonia. MISS WATTS was eighty years of age.

Deceased is the SISTER OF MR. J. C. WATTS, of this city, and lived here for about two years some years ago. The death of his sister makes MR. WATTS the only surviving child of a family of eleven. The funeral was held on Wednesday at Liberty Chruch, Alabama. Many friends of the WATTS FAMILY will regret to learn of the passing of this good woman.

**WATTS**

**Vernie Spann Watts,** 102, of Moss Point, Miss., born Oct. 14, 1901, in Moss Point, died Aug. 25, 2003, in Pascagoula, Miss. She was a lifetime member of Moss Point Presbyterian Church and a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Judge L. A. Watts; and her son-in-law, Rix Simms.

Survivors include two daughters and a son-in-law, Barbara and Richard Strain of Mobile, Ala., Duvergne Simms of Moss Point; two grandsons and wives, James M. and Debbie Strain of Portland, Oregon, Gregg W. and Dolanda Simms of Moss Point; three great-grandchildren; and three nieces.

Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, with the Rev. Norman Bagby officiating.

Burial will be in Griffin Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Moss Point Presbyterian Church.

Arrangements made by Holder-Wells Funeral Home in Moss Point, Miss.

Pascagoula Public Library
Genealogy & Local History Dept.
Watts Family File #2

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**Contact:** Dan Shea, 934-1424
**E-mail address:** mseditor@themississippipress.com

# House fire claims the life of Moss Point man

WATTS

■ Long-time Boy Scout leader succumbs to smoke inhalation

**By NATALIE CHAMBERS**
Mississippi Press Staff

MOSS POINT — A 73-year-old disabled Moss Point man was killed and his wife seriously burned in a smoky fire that billowed through their home early Tuesday.

Chris "CG" Watts Sr., a long time Boy Scout leader, died of smoke inhalation. Watts' wife, Dorris, suffered burns to her face, hair and hands and was airlifted to University of South Alabama Burn Center for treatment.

The blaze, of unknown origin, also left Moss Point firefighter Shawn Cooper with burns to the face.

He was treated at Singing River Hospital's emergency room and released.

The fire occurred about 4:15 a.m., at the height of a thunderstorm that pummeled the area with heavy rain and numerous lightning bolts, said Davetta Walker of Pascagoula, who tried to help the aged family members.

The couple, 73 and 79 respectively, celebrated a 59th wedding anniversary last month.

Walker was next door at her friend Melvin Anderson's home when she heard his dogs barking. Looking out the window, she spotted Mrs. Watts, distraught and seemingly heading toward the Anderson home.

When Walker ran out to assist her, she spotted flames coming from the rear of the Watts home located at 3607 Hemlock St.

"She kept saying (Mr. Watts) was in the back bedroom and the house was on fire," Walker said.

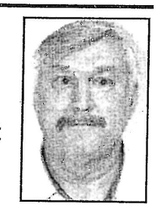
Mr. Watts was disabled and needed a walker to get around the short distances he could walk.

Walker said she led Mrs. Watts inside the Anderson home, sat her on a couch and then ran to the Watts home to assist Mr. Watts.

When she opened the back door, smoke immediately overpowered her. She was unable to retrieve Mr. Watts.

Walker said she ran back to the Anderson home where she found Mrs. Watts collapsed on the floor. Walker then began dialing 911. She also went back outside and began beating on doors of other neighbors, trying to assistance from them.

> **"It will be a blessing that will come out of it. What we got to do is search for that."**
>
> — Gerry Watts



Walker said Mrs. Watts was able to give her telephone numbers of relatives. A son, Gerry Watts, lived around the corner and was one of the first ones to arrive.

Walker also called Anderson who had already left for work when the fire broke out. Anderson said when he returned home, "it was fire everywhere."

He said his first attempt was to move his car but when he learned of his neighbors' fate, they became his primary concern.

"I wonder why things like that happen because those people were good people," he said.

Anderson said Walker, herself, is recuperating from surgery on both legs.

Walker said Mrs. Watts never said what caused the fire.

Gerry Walker said his mother said she heard a "spewing noise." He believes the fire came from a lightning strike.

"She was trying to get help for my dad. He's 200 and something pounds. She couldn't get him up," he said.

"She gave it all she had," said Broadus.

"It will be a blessing that will come out of it. What we got to do is search for that," said Gerry Watts.

Chris Watts, during his younger years, was scout master for Troop 237 for at least 20 years, his son said. He was a deacon at Griffin Street Baptist Church, a neighborhood church.

"He was a very religious man," said longtime family friend Ray Couch.

Next door neighbor Marilyn James said the Watts were a very nice, church-going couple.

"They were the last elderly people we had in here," she said, adding that the last time she saw the couple was Sunday when family members were taking them somewhere.

Gerry Watts said his mother's burns are not very extensive.

He said she was hospitalized for observation.

He also credited Moss Point firefighters for their ability to contain the fire and prevent it from spreading to neighboring properties.

"It didn't burn the trees. They were constantly moving," he said.

Staff Photo/William Colgin

Fire Inspector Mike Dale interviews Devetta Walker about the fire that took the life of a resident at 3607 Hemlock in Moss Point early Tuesday morning.

## AREA DEATHS

**MR. CLIFTON GERALD WATTS**, 76, of Moss Point, Miss., died Dec. 31, 2002. Holder-Wells Funeral Home, Moss Point, Miss.

**HARRY BURNEY**, 59, of Vancleave, Miss., died Dec. 31, 2002. Millender Funeral Home, Moss Point, Miss.

"Obituaries over one inch in length are paid advertisements."